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THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH, 2013

Inspirational Homes & Gardens

Pages 15 & 16

Wales'
Six
Nations
showdown



(See Back
Page)

**GEM RURAL
PROFILE** Pages 20/21

EX-GLAMORGAN STAR HUGH'S LONDON MARATHON APPEAL...

'HELP SUPPORT ME IN THE BATTLE AGAINST CANCER'



Hugh Morris at a recent half-marathon.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

ONE of the reasons why the England cricket team has reached the summit of the global game in recent years, is down to Welshman Hugh Morris, who has strong connections to Cowbridge.

He has fulfilled a number of roles in the hierarchy of the England and Wales Cricket Board in recent years – and is currently its managing director.

As a player, Hugh performed at the highest level, for Glamorgan Cricket Club as captain, and as an opener for England in the early 1990s – but his greatest battle took place just over a decade ago.

Hugh explained that just before Christmas in 2002, he received the worst possible news...

"On December 15, I was diagnosed with throat cancer. As you can imagine, the news turned my world upside-down.

"I spent the next five months undergoing three major operations in Reading, and six weeks of radiotherapy in Oxford.

"It is only due to the outstanding skill and care of my consultant, Rogan Corbridge and his team, and the support of my family, that I am here to tell the tale."

Hugh is a survivor, but his experience has made him acutely aware of the fears and consequences of suffering from throat cancer.

"Over the past 10 years, approximately 80,000 people have been

diagnosed with this form of cancer, and whilst more than half will be cured, current treatment methods can have a devastating effect on the lives of patients, affecting their ability to speak, eat, taste, smell, or see.

"For the past six years, I have been patron of the 'Heads Up, Head and Neck Cancer Charity', which funds pioneering research into head and neck cancer.

"By learning more about this group of diseases, we are seeking to find ways to prevent them, and develop new treatments that result in fewer life-changing side effects."

(CONTINUED
ON PAGE 3)

BROWNIES TAKE ON BIG BUNTING CHALLENGE!



ABOVE:

The flags will fly from the Humber Bridge, as part of a world record attempt.

THE 3rd Cowbridge Brownies have made two giant bunting flags – as part of Helen Skelton's Blue Peter world record attempt to make the world's largest bunting line for display on the Humber Bridge.

This is one of seven magnificent challenges to raise money for Red Nose Day. The Brownies are also holding a 'Great Brownie Bake-Off' to raise some extra cash.

POINT TO POINT STEEPLECHASES ON

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'Pay and display charges don't help'

ICANNOT believe that the Vale of Glamorgan council- lours want to intro- duce pay and display charges.

How is that going to help an already under pressure business on Holton Road?

How is that going to encourage the public to use our shopping area on Holton Road?

Already, nine empty shops in a 500-yard stretch of that road, with a new development with retail spaces, is not helping.

People are already using out of town shopping and the local community is suffering.

Councillors should be trying to help revitalise the area – any plans in the pipeline?

For the people who

work and park in that area, no doubt on or just above minimum wage, it means another financial burden on them.

Are councillors sitting in their Ivory Towers with their free reserved parking places at Civic Offices thinking "let's get the litter enforcement officers to issue fines on the offending cars"?

Who is Miles Punter? Are you a councillor, do you live in Barry?

One thing is for sure, the residents of Barry will not accept your plan to kill local business, or put a financial burden on the hard-working employee or residential visitors (who could bring potential sales in the local shops) to our town or any part of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Chris Herring, Barry

'No scaremongering over school closures'

IN response to a letter published in last week's edition of The GEM, in which Conservative politicians were again accused of whipping up a storm over the threat of school closures by the Labour-run Vale Council, I feel that it is important that some facts are established.

It is a fact that it was the Labour cabinet, and council officers, who called in the chair of governors and head-teacher of each school to make them aware of the recommendations contained within the report.

What followed thereafter was a sequence of public meetings organised by parents in relation to school catchment changes which are currently being consulted on.

These discussions quickly developed into a series of discussions

around the school closure proposals, which were outlined in the council's own document; which was published on February 27.

It is bizarre and disingenuous to accuse locally elected politicians of scaremongering, when in fact, we have been responding to the valid concerns of local parents, teachers and governors.

To misunderstand the strength of feeling this debacle has stirred in these local communities only serves to remind residents just how out of touch the Labour group on the Vale Council are.

I am very pleased to see that the cabinet have now reconsidered this ill-thought strategy, but it is a bit rich to hear Labour toadies bemoaning my and the local MP's efforts to fight for the interests of our local communities.

Andrew RT Davies AM

Leader of the Welsh Conservatives

Missed a bit...

IWOULD like to thank the council for filling in the pot holes in upper Pike Street, but by the way, they missed a bit. Actually, quite a big bit. Philip Thompson, Barry.

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Readers' Letters

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Don John, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'My commitment to school never in doubt'

MAY I, through the pages of your paper, have the right to reply to a number of attacks made by many of my political adversaries (eg Barrie V Evans, Jeff Heathfield, etc) questioning my commitment to Oak Field School.

I am the longest serving governor at Oak Field School, and as such, have given many years of service supporting both the children and parents; and I will, with the help of the local community and council, continue to support them through some very difficult challenges ahead.

I have never tried to paint a rosy picture about the challenges facing the school, that would be to deceive parents and the school staff. We have been without a permanent headteacher for many years – that single fact is one of the school's biggest problems.

I will also not hide from the reality that many local parents have chosen not to send their children to the school.

I have been criticised in the press for not attending an emergency parents' meeting, which was called at short notice on March 21, to discuss a Part 2 report coming from a scrutiny sub-committee chaired by Coun Nic Hodges.

Part 2 means that the report is confidential and that according to the councillors' code of conduct, which every councillor signs up to on their election, no councillor was allowed to speak on in the public domain.

'Council tax rise unfair'

IATTENDED Last week's Vale of Glamorgan Council budget setting meeting, and was very disappointed with the outcome.

Thanks to the Labour-run Vale Council, we will have the second highest council tax rise in Britain at 4.8 per cent – despite a well costed amendment from Plaid Cymru councillor Ian Johnson to bring this tax rise down to 3 per cent, without cutting frontline services or jobs.

Inflation is running at

2.7 per cent and the Welsh average is 2.9 per cent, so why are we in the Vale paying so much more than anywhere else? Is our council so badly run?

This rise just isn't fair on thousands of families who are already struggling to find the money to pay their bills and put food on the table, especially when Plaid Cymru had laid a serious amendment which would have lowered this. Shame on you Labour!

Mr Barry Shaw, Barry

'SPEED UP ROAD WORKS'

PLEASE can the Vale Highways department get cracking on the road straightening work due on the B4265 near Esso, Four Cross?

The road is heavily used by lorries, in particular those to and from the power station at West Aberthaw, and the quarry and cement works at East Aberthaw.

It is an increasingly dangerous stretch of road and it seems to be only a matter of time before a serious accident

happens (only recently a GD Environmental lorry lost part of its propshaft, blocking one side of the road on a blind bend).

It would be appropriate if the road straightening plans were to include a by-pass for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders alike.

This would connect the east and west sides of Aberthaw, as well as offering an off-road access for the junction at Llancale.

This would help to make parts of the Vale safer to access for non-drivers.

Josey Evans, West Aberthaw.

I already had two other meetings for that evening and one of them was the Colcot Residents' Board meeting. So I had the choice of going to a meeting at which I could not speak – a fact that my political enemies would take full advantage of – or to attend the other two meetings at which I could speak and contribute.

May I also point out that out of the 14 other Oak Field governors, only two were able to attend that meeting! And that at a subsequent scheduled governors' meeting less than a week later, I was able to report back in full to both governors and parents, that the cabinet, which makes the day-to-day decisions for the council, had unanimously backed the parents and recommended to not close any of the three schools mentioned in Coun Nic Hodges' scrutiny report.

My commitment to the children of Gibbonsdown was never in doubt, but I will, however, apologise for the fact that for four weeks, due to the councillors' code of conduct with a confidential Part 2 report, I was unable to discuss this report with anyone outside the council.

My political enemies took full advantage of this with their taunting in the letters pages of the local press.

Over the coming weeks, months and years, I will continue to work for the best educational needs of the children of Gibbonsdown and of Oak Field School... Something that I am sure the parents and residents of Gibbonsdown will come to recognise.

Coun Rob Curtis, Barry.

Will Barry merge with Rhosee?

IWAS recently invited to a meeting by Illyd's newly-appointed Labour councillors, Rhona Probert and John Drysdale, to discuss the progress of the new LDP.

A number of important issues were raised, such as traffic congestion, the number of new houses Barry is expected to take, and the lack of any infrastructure.

One point that came out of the meeting was that these housing developments can pop up anywhere without any consideration given to traffic congestion and infrastructure.

On making my own enquiries with the local

council, I found that Wimpey Taylor have recently submitted outline planning proposals to build 200 houses on approximately seven hectares of arable land behind Nant Talwg Way, Pontypridd Road and St James Crescent.

Whilst I understand there is a need for new housing, I do not believe building on currently active agricultural land is the answer.

If planning permission is granted, then it will set a precedent for any agricultural land to be built upon on any urban boundary.

I wonder if it is a matter of time before Barry will merge with Rhosee? Debra Cleland, Barry.

Support for the Quakers' stand

NEVILLE WESTERMAN'S recent letter on Quakers and gay marriage, shows that many people of 'faith' are in favour of enabling all people, regardless of whom they love, to have a religious ceremony to mark the dedication of their lives to one another.

It seems to us that there can be no justification for a law which restricts the religious freedom of Quakers in their sincerely-held belief. Ellen and Tony Woodward, Barry.

'Bring schools up to same high standard'

Whatever the rights and

wrongs of the

'whistleblowing' on the potential school

closures, Brian

Morris (GEM let- ters, February 28)

clearly feels that it

is acceptable for the

matter even to be

the subject of a dis- cussion document.

I wonder if his reac- tion would have been the

same if this had hap- pened under the previous

regime? Education, particularly at primary level, is an essential building block for the future of the individual, and the emphasis should be not on closing successful schools, but bringing all schools up to the same high standard – striving for the highest common factor, rather than the lowest common denominator.

Perhaps the council could apply some of the 4.8 per cent tax rise to this?

Alec Trousdell, Dyffryn

Was GEM being 'bold' in making political point?

IHAVE read with dispassionate interest – I live

in the Vale but not in the affected areas

– the passion of the

parents in their

campaign to keep

Llancafarn, Llanfair and par- ticularly Oakdale

Schools open.

I guess that The GEM has well publi- cised these campaigns in the valid interests of its readers.

However, I was very surprised to see a letter entitled 'Cynical attempt to whip up a storm' printed not only in the centre of the Readers' Letters page, but shown in an emboldened font.

One may think that this was an attempt to make some political point – surely not from such an unbiased publication as The GEM?

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a certain John McEnroe once said – 'You cannot be serious!'

'Vale Council should apologise to Oak Field'

NOW that the

Labour-led Vale Council

has decided that

Oak Field School in

Barry is not to

close, I wonder if

they will issue an

apology for putting

staff, pupils and

families through

both worry and

stress.

I really cannot under- stand why they took so long to announce they were not going to close the school and, further- more, why they both- ered with the school's

task and finish group, if they were just going to ignore the recommenda- tions.

The way the Labour coalition handled the whole situation was appalling and rather amateurish in its whole approach.

It is now time that the Labour leaders on the Vale Council admitted that they handled this badly, and issued an apology to the school, with immediate effect.

Coun Richard Bertin, Independent, Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MARCH 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
14 Thur	07.55	10.1	20.11	9.9
15 Fri	08.29	9.7	20.42	9.6
16 Sat	09.01	9.5	21.13	9.2
17 Sun	09.32	8.9	21.46	8.7
18 Mon	10.05	8.4	22.21	8.1
19 Tues	10.46	7.8	23.08	7.6
20 Wed	11.45	7.3		
21 Thur	00.22	7.2	13.22	7.0

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

SNEAK THIEF STRIKES Photographer's images stolen from library...

COWBRIDGE photographer Lucy Hailes has removed her photographic display from the local library, after the theft of two of her photos.

The manager of the library, Melanie Weeks, said staff were shocked the images had been taken. It is believed they were removed on March 5 or March 6.

Lucy told The GEM she understood the attraction of the two photos because they are unique. They show two of Wales' iconic buildings, Cardiff Castle and the Millennium Centre.

She explained: "They both needed a certain time of the year and day as well as the right conditions, and involved many visits before getting the right shots."

The photos are 12ins x 8ins and in 'mounts' one black and one white.

Lucy said: "I was looking forward to having the opportunity to show my work but have yet to sell any of the images, so if anyone sees them anywhere please let the police, The GEM, the Library or me know."

"My studio portraits are still on display in the library as it would be very odd for someone to take them."

You can log on to www.lucyhailesphotography.co.uk to see Lucy's full range of images.



Lucy's image of Cardiff Castle in the autumn.



The Millennium Centre at night.

The 'Queen of Herbs' comes to Cowbridge!

ON Wednesday, March 20, Jekka McVicar will be giving a talk entitled, 'The World of Herbs' at the St Quintins Suite, Bear Hotel, High Street, Cowbridge, commencing at 7.30pm.

Jekka McVicar is a multiple RHS gold medal winner at the Chelsea Flower Show and is acknowledged as a world authority on the growing and uses of herbs.

For 25 years, she has been growing herbs from her own herb farm in Gloucestershire and her entertaining and



Jekka McVicar

informative talks are always highly praised.

The trustees of Cowbridge Physic Garden are "delighted" she has agreed to come to Cowbridge and her talk takes place after the members' AGM. Tickets will be available at the door, priced £7.50.

CATTLE 'NEGLECT': ANOTHER VIEW

FIRST of all, I would like to say that I have no affiliation with any of the people involved in the story concerning cattle 'neglect' in the March 7 issue.

I simply have a wider understanding of the farming background than the people who took it upon themselves to raise the matter.

With regard to the report, I can only assume that the people who have reported the claim of 'neglect' in reference to the cattle in Llanmaes/Frampton have no experience of farming whatsoever.

Reader's opinion

The last thing these farmers want (along with virtually every other farming family) is to neglect their animals, and have them live in conditions such as those described or, even worse, die.

Farms are, essentially, a business. Would any business person neglect their main livelihood?

No, I didn't think so.

Not everything in the countryside is fluffy and sweet-smelling. (Name and address supplied)

Cowbridge women join in international day of prayer



Women in Cowbridge took part in the recent 'Women's World Day of Prayer' - which this year was an inter-denominational service, prepared by Christian women of France. (Photograph by Mike Wilcock).

Bridging the gap at the Cowbridge U3A



Here, John shows the letter of acceptance to Shirley Dunsforth, chairman of Cowbridge U3A, and a delighted Kathleen.

INCREASED numbers in Cowbridge U3A adds up to more people showing an interest in learning new skills in their Third Age, particularly in learning to play bridge.

Kathleen Ferguson has, and continues to coach people from beginners' stage, through intermediate to

competency. In the process, her pupils outgrew her front room and she was in need of bridge tables that she could use and store in a local hall.

Treasurer John Hopkins duly put the case to grants for all Wales with fingers crossed, and the Big Lottery Fund provided a cheque for £1,350.

Cowbridge travel agent will get Welsh sportsmen to Commonwealth Games

A COWBRIDGE business has been appointed as official travel agent for the Welsh team at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

Sam Smith Travel will be in charge of travel arrangements for the Welsh competitors, coaches, family and friends.

The travel agency has also been appointed as an official ticket supplier for the general public.

Julie Whittingham of Sam Smith Travel, told The GEM that it would be "quite a challenge", as they would also be in charge of transporting the competitors' equipment - and with 17 sports included in the Commonwealth Games, there is quite a variety

of equipment to move. The Commonwealth Games will be handled by the Strachan Travel arm of the agency, and Jim Strachan told The GEM they had provided a similar service for the last two games, in Delhi (2010) and Melbourne (2006).

He said: "The biggest problem I can see is whether there will be enough hotel beds in and around Glasgow."

"To be honest, we have a similar problem in Cardiff when big events are staged."

He added that he expected the busiest aspect for them would be handling travel arrangements for family and friends.

Another aspect that could turn out to be very busy, is packages for spectators - bearing in mind how successful

the 2012 Olympics were. A further level of Welsh interest could come from the inclusion of rugby sevens. Jim said that the sport had not featured in Delhi, but has been popular in Melbourne.

The other sports in the games are: swimming and other aquatic sports; cycling; lawn bowls; squash; wrestling; athletics; gymnastics; netball; table tennis; badminton; hockey; triathlon; boxing; shooting; judo and weightlifting.

Did you know you can read your GEM online?
cowbridge-today.co.uk

Hugh's charity run

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Hugh is hoping people in south Wales will back him in trying to raise funds for this worthy cause.

"I have been one of the lucky ones, and on April 21, nearly 10 years to the day that I completed my treatment, I have the opportunity of raising some money for 'Heads Up' by running the 2013 London Marathon."

"It will be my one and only effort at this distance and it would be greatly appreciated if you were able to support such a great charity by contributing online."

Hugh's links to the Vale go back generations. His father, uncle

and grandfather all played for Cowbridge Cricket Club and he is an honorary vice president of the club.

Dozens of people are already going to Hugh's 'Just Giving' page, donating and leaving supportive comments. He has already passed the £5,000 mark with more than a month to go until the starting gun in London.

One couple, Steve and Kath Whitehead commented on Hugh's Just Giving page:

"Conscience money for ruining you as UWIC outside half - you're lucky I was a rugby ref rather than a cricket umpire. May the miles will slip by!"

To leave an encouraging comment and/or donation, go to Hugh's just giving page at: <http://www.justgiving.com/Hugh-Morris>.

Fire safety meeting

On Thursday, March 21 at 2pm at the Lesser Hall, Town Hall, Cowbridge, Neil Tomlins, community Fire Safety Officer, will address Cowbridge Senior Citizens meeting on 'Fire Safety in the Home'.

"He will also arrange home visits and check that there are no potential fire hazards in homes. This should be a very interesting and informative meeting, and to which all are invited," a spokesperson said.

Bridge results

RESULTS for Cowbridge and District (Llanbleddian) Bridge Club for Tuesday, March 5:

First, Mearl Owen and Debbie Rosevear, 66.67 per cent; second, Barbara and Colin Easterbrook, 65.91; third, Glenda Roberts and Amy Owen, 64.17; fourth, Pat and Brian Swain, 58.75. ME

'Repair these potholes'

I CANNOT help wondering how many of our numerous potholes could have been repaired, thus avoiding damage to cars and maybe accidents as well, by using the money being spent on the extensive road works at Sycamore Cross?

It might even have been possible to resurface Cae Stumpie in Cowbridge.

- GEM reader R Bradshaw, of Cowbridge

LITTER PICK

LLANBLETHIAN litter pick will take place on Saturday, March 23.

Meet at the church hall at 10.30am for a community event to pick litter, and investigate the state of the footpaths.

Refreshments will be provided and all are welcome.

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Merched y Wawr's £750 for Welsh playgroup...



PHOTOS BY
MIKE
WILCOCK

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, MP popped into a fundraising coffee morning arranged by Merched y Wawr in Cowbridge, to raise funds for Cylch Meithrin y Bontfaen – the Welsh language pre-school playgroup.

The group held the event at the Lesser Hall in Cowbridge, raising £570 for their chosen charity.

The Welsh playgroup, a registered charity and not-for-profit organization, is based in the centre of Cowbridge – between the leisure centre and the new medical centre.



BEAVER SCOUTS TRAMP THROUGH THE FOREST!

RIGHT:

The local Beaver Scouts and their families stop to have their picture taken by Liz Morgan.



GEM readers asked... 'Can you help Mum bridge 70-year gap?'

I WONDER if any of your readers can recall a family called Gwynn-Davies (possibly Davis?) who lived in Cowbridge during the Second World War?

My mother, who now resides in west Yorkshire, will shortly celebrate her 91st birthday. Although she has been widowed for many years, she often reminisces about her experiences while serving as a WAAF throughout the war years.

As a young nurse during that difficult time, she cared for countless battle casualties and found herself posted to a number of locations around the country.

Among the military personnel she met, one clearly stood out. A friendship developed between her and an RAF officer called John Gwynn Davies, who lived in Cowbridge. My mother has frequently referred to this dashing airman who, even to this

day, remains the subject of discussion in our family.

While stationed in south Wales, she met John and remembers visiting the family's detached home in Cowbridge during the height of the war, where the young officer lived with his parents (apparently John's father was a solicitor in the area).

My interest in trying to trace John Gwynn Davies has been enlivened by the fact that it is almost 70 years since they last saw each other, and I would dearly love to be able to tell my mother on her 91st birthday what became of her brief wartime beau.

I have become intrigued by the enigmatic airman. Can anyone shed any light on this? If so, please could they contact me, either by telephone on 07758 835517, or via e-mail: wilkinsonsion893@gm

ail.com
Simon Wilkinson,
Keighley,
West Yorkshire.

OVER half-term, some of the 1st Cowbridge Beaver Scouts, with their families and friends, explored Coed Hills woods, clambering over fallen trees, getting stuck in mud, using their compasses and learning how to lead an expedition.

'Dial O for the Operator'

AT the March meeting of Merthyr Mawr WI, president Margaret Batten welcomed our speaker, Pamela Robson, whose theme was 'Dial O for the Operator'.

On leaving school in the 60's, Pamela joined the GPO as a telephone operator.

She described the work and traced the development of the telephone system over the years.

She spoke of party lines, telephone kiosks with the A and B buttons and the role of the telephonist in making long distance calls.

To make a call from Manchester to Scotland would involve contacting several telephone exchanges. Her talk

brought back many memories for most of us and showed such a contrast to today, in the light of modern technology, with the wide use of mobile phones, texting and emails.

She is, in her own words, an example of 'living history'.

At the February meeting, we held a bring and buy sale of books and plants to raise money for the country women of the world. Gwerllf Gardner organised a quiz and this was followed by an enjoyable fish and chip supper.

Members were reminded of the walk to be held in April at Bryngarw Park, and the half yearly council meeting.

The next meeting will be held on April 3, at Ewenny Community Hall.

FC

LOCAL WI MEMBERS SEE THE MAGIC OF SCARVES

THE March meeting of Ystradowen and District WI was held at the village hall on March 6, when president Jan Foyle introduced the speaker, Rosemary Scaddon, whose talk was entitled 'The Magic of Scarves'.

She told us that wearing a scarf enhances any outfit and proceeded to prove this most effectively.

Rosemary had brought with her a wonderful collection of scarves in various colours, shapes and fabrics.

We were given an opportunity to try out some of the methods demonstrated.

Pam Robbins thanked Rosemary for a very stimulating talk and demonstration.

The 90th anniversary book had been handed over to Bontfaen WI on February 27; 17 members, plus guests, had gathered in our layby and our local postman arrived with the book.

We were delighted to hear that harpist Glenda Clwyd had been booked for the link meeting in October and

Chris Kelly reported that the August outing will be a visit to Sudley Castle in Gloucestershire.

The committee had agreed to bring the time of the meetings forward to 7.30pm in September.

Rose Ives agreed to lead the discussion on the WI resolution in May.

Jan asked for a volunteer to act as a public affairs officer and Irena

agreed to do this. Rose had tickets available for the fashion show in April. Various members volunteered to act as models.

The monthly walk will take place on March 20 and coffee morning in the vestry on March 27.

The April meeting will be held in the village hall on April 3. As always visitors and new members will be made very welcome.

EL

Bridge club

VALE of Glamorgan bridge club, Monday, March 4, 20 pair:

1st. Mary Moore and John Beard 63.19%;
2nd. Ray Smith and Gwynne Naddox 62.73%;
3rd. Glyn Williams and Steve Burgoyne 59.95%;
4th. Kath Jenkins and Dennis Smith 58.33%;
5th. John Henson and Geoff Tinkler 56.25%;
6th. Miriam Handren and Simon Gottschalk 56.25%;
7th. Julie Evans and Ryan Evans 55.09%.

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Library events

EASTER crafts at Cowbridge Library on Saturday, March 23; drop-in session from 10am-12 noon.

Family history: Cowbridge Library is holding a free family history class on March 20 from 5pm-7pm.

Booking is essential. Contact the library on 01446 773941.

EMILY'S DESIGN IS THE COMPETITION WINNER!



LEFT:
A winning line-up at Cowbridge.

THE winners of the Cowbridge Comprehensive 'Design a Bookmark' competition for World Book Day have been announced.

The winner was Emily Bluck who won a £15 book voucher; second prize went to Marianne Evans, and the runner-up was Callum Howell.

The standard was very high and India Maurice, Sam Clark, Cerys Baker, Tanya Chalissery, Megan Champion and Matthew Jenkins all had their work highly commended.

Prizes were awarded by the headteacher, Mrs Thomas, and the students have been invited to meet author Cathy Cassidy.

KIMBERLEY LOYNS

Firefighters race to a truck blaze



THE local Fire Service responded quickly to an emergency on Boverton Road, Llantwit Major, on March 6. GEM reader Kevin Shafro captured the moment when firefighters began to extinguish flames on the truck.



Emily Bluck's design.

SPRING CYCLE RIDE



THE Llanblethian Boys are pictured on their first spring cycle ride of 2013. It was taken by Mike Wilcock near Factory Brook on Bridge Road, Llanblethian.

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AFTER FUNDING BOOST, NEW HERITAGE EXHIBITION PLANNED AT BONVILSTON



ABOVE: The Bonvilston Bell Ringers, a picture taken outside St Mary's Church, date unknown.



The 1949 Bonvilston football team.



Cricket team, taken in 1i04 on the playing fields at the rear of the Red Lion. JH Brain is in the back row next to the gentleman in the straw boater.

BONVILSTON History Group has received £3,400 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for an exciting new heritage project.

This award, together with a £9,000 grant from the 'Pride in Our Heritage' programme, awarded by the Creative Rural Communities in Cowbridge, through the Rural Development Plan for Wales, will provide funding to record and display the heritage of Bonvilston in the local church of St Mary's.

Led by volunteers from the local community, the project will

cover the history of the village from the earliest records up to the present day.

Through the involvement of the community, it will enable villagers to learn more about the village, the surroundings in which they live and provide them with a window into the past.

The aim of the project is to create a fixed display in St Mary's Church with graphic wall panels, free standing display and a floor covering featuring the 1877 Ordnance Survey map which will allow visitors to take a virtual walk through the village.

Before the summer, it is planned to launch a re-print, in colour, of Charles Deere's Recollections which tell the story of village life in the early 20th Century.

St Mary's Church was chosen for the venue because it is the oldest building in the village and already is the source of many historical records. The church dates back to Norman times.

With the original tower and chancel arch, together with an unusual medieval tablet, it is a perfect setting for the exhibition.

With other local projects, such as the restoration of the medieval wall paintings at St Cadoc's in Llanccarfan and the major work at



A group photograph of villagers and visitors most likely associated with the United Reform Congregational Church in Ely, taken in the 1950s.

the Galilee Chapel at St Iltyd's in Llantwit Major, it is hoped that St Mary's will provide another destination for those keen to learn more about the heritage of the area.

As a group, we are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Creative Rural Communities and are looking forward with enthusiasm to engage the local community in the creation of a new and exciting exhibition in the village.

Jennifer Stewart, head of HLF Wales

commented "Communities are at the heart of the projects we support. This project will give local people the chance to develop new skills while exploring and sharing the rich history of Bonvilston.

"People, young and old, will play a part in recording the heritage which is important to them, for present and future generations to enjoy."

The History Group would be interested in hearing from anyone who would like to share photographs or memories of life in

Bonvilston. Past events such as village sports, carnivals and gymkhanas were always great occasions and the football team was once a big part of sporting life in the village.

Do you have old deeds, a family tree or Bible linking your family or house to Bonvilston? Now's the time to search through the attic!

Contact 01446 781686 or email: paul.fisher@btinternet.com.

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CYCLE ROAD RACE

ONE of the most prestigious road cycling races in Wales will start at 10 am from Cowbridge on March 17, around a circuit course through the villages of Corntown, Ewenny, St Brides Major and Wick to finish outside the motor racing circuit at Llandow.

The 'Betty Pharaoh Memorial Legstretchers Road Race' will be based at Cowbridge Comprehensive School and will comprise two separate races of around 80 riders, approximately ten minutes apart on the road.

FIRST CLASS DELIVERY AT YSTRADOWEN!



ABOVE: Postman Rob hands over the WI book.

TO celebrate the 90th anniversary of Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes, a celebration book is being compiled.

Ystradowen and District WI received the book from Penllyn and passed it on to Bont Faen with the help of the Royal Mail. Local post-

man, Rob Meredith, delivered it to Jan Foyle, president of Ystradowen, who was waiting with members and visitors in the lay-by garden.

She then passed it over to the president of Bont Faen, Jackie Jones. Afterwards, the ladies adjourned to the vestry for coffee and cakes.

Llancarfan Primary celebrates with St David's day spectacular!



LLANCARFAN Primary School celebrated St David's day by showcasing pupils' talents, from literature and art, to music and dance.

Both pupils and staff made this another fantastic eisteddfod for the school with a special mention to this year's Bard of Llancarfan, Rebecca Rees, Year six.

"This is my first eisteddfod at Llancarfan", said Headteacher, Colin Smith, "and I have been incredibly impressed by the pupils and staff who have put together such a spectacular celebration."

For Llancarfan Primary, one of the Vale's top performing schools, this year's eisteddfod also marked a celebration of a different kind, as the threat of closure has been lifted.

FREEMASONS' CHEQUE BOOST FOR COWBRIDGE RESIDENTS



Above: the cheque is handed over. Below: residents celebrate on Wales' national day.



BROTHER John Morgan, Master of St Quentin's Lodge, Cowbridge, during his master-ship raised a "significant sum" for charitable purposes.

This included the Masonic residential complex at Cowbridge, Geoffrey Ash Court, and on Dydd Dewi Sant, he visited the Court to make a presentation, on behalf of the Lodge, to Mrs. Beti Bennett, senior resident (mother of Brother Vince Bennett, a past master of the Lodge).

Pictured, TOP, LEFT, with Brother John and Beti are Mrs. Mavis Ashford, Brother Dick Edwards and Mrs. Julia Keates, the manager at the Court.

As can be seen in the pictures, residents were enjoying a celebratory cup of tea with Welsh cakes and bara brith to mark Saint David's Day, with resident Mavis really entering into the occasion in traditional style.



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Potholes concern

RESIDENTS in the Park Newydd area of Treoes are becoming increasingly concerned with the state of the road – potholes are deteriorating more each week.

One family with a disabled relative has to walk along the road as the pavement does not extend to the end. I have also seen tractors with muck containers standing in the road, which all adds to the problem.

So message to the Vale Highways Department: 'Please repair the potholes before an unfortunate resident has an accident.'

Lane clear

I AM pleased to note that the area along Elasto Lane is now clear of the mud and water from the stream, which had prevented

local residents walking their dogs.

Garden centre

ONCE again, proposals have come to the fore regarding the development of the former garden centre, situated on the Pencoed-Pentre Meurig road. I hope to have the full details in my column in next week's GEM.

My birthday (90 years!)

MAY I, through my column, thank everyone for the cards, flowers and chocolates which I received on my 90th birthday on March 6, along with a celebration on Thursday, March 7 at the Young at Heart Club, flowers and birthday cake, and my friends at The GEM.

My heartfelt thanks you to you all, and I hope I can continue my itty bitty news until I receive my special birthday card from the Queen!

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

WICK Chapel held a Mothering Sunday service on March 10, remembering all members of the chapel and mothers.

WICK Horticultural Society held their AGM in the village hall on March 8 and to make arrangements for the coming season.

THE collection of green garden waste bags will now commence from March 22 and then on alternate weeks to the black bags.

OGMORE Retired Residents held their meeting at All Saints, Southerndown, on March 7, when the I speaker was Linda Feagan, of the Bridgend Dogs Trust, who brought along her own rescue dog, Ruby – a three-year-old King Charles spaniel.

The Retired Residents will be holding their AGM on March 21 at All Saints, Southerndown, at 2pm. Please make every effort to attend.

THE village market was held last Saturday at the church hall, with extra stalls. The ladies were kept busy making up bunches of daffodils, courtesy of Stade Southerndown, ready for the church Mothering Sunday service.

AT Mothering Sunday lunches in the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major, each mother was presented with a red or yellow rose.

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PENDOYLAN CHILDREN CELEBRATE ST DAVID IN WORD, DANCE AND SONG

Pendoylan CIW Primary School enjoyed a fantastic St David's Day.

A school spokeswoman said: "Our congratulations go to the Yellow House on winning our 2013 eisteddfod. It was the closest it has been for a very long time, and we thank every pupil and parent who helped to make it such a 'bendigedig' day."

"The home competition entries were wonderful and the standard of work completed in school, plus the recital, song and dance performances impressed us all. We're so lucky to have such a talented lot!"

Grace Marshall was named Bard of the Year and won the coveted 'Chair' award.



This Land of Mine...

This land of mine is where my heart will remain,
My love for Wales will stay the same,
Wherever I go,
I will always know
This glorious land of mine.

The kindness of people will remain,
As the anthem fills the air with a memorable sound,
The breath-taking scenery always with pride,
As the Welsh flag waves on the side.

Each step of the road leads for Welsh traditions,
Where we can find the things it brings us happiness,
The twinkling stars, shine for their stars to be told,
They all stand tall, proud and bold.

This land of mine is where my heart will remain,
My love for Wales will stay the same,
Wherever I go,
I will always know
This glorious land of mine. *By David Scott*



PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR BARRY REGENERATION TO MOVE FORWARD

I JOINED the latest visit to Barry made by the Housing, Regeneration and Heritage Minister, Huw Lewis AM, when he was viewing the media training studios at the HUB, Barry YMCA, which he had supported with Welsh Government Regeneration funds.

This visit took place to coincide with St. David's Day week - three years since the Welsh Government launched the Barry Regeneration Plan with the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

This week, the Minister announced the outcome of his consultations on the next Phase of Regeneration in Wales. His consultation on "Vibrant and Visible Places -

A New Regeneration Framework' has resulted in new opportunities and prospects for the regeneration of Barry.

When I met with him recently to discuss the consultation and the impact on Barry, he was positive and complimentary about the achievements already made in Barry.

He wrote to me in January to say: "I am pleased with progress in Barry. I recognise the opportunities for the town in the future, and I hope that local partners will be able to put forward a strong case for further investment."

Since then, he has also approved a number of schemes to invest in the regeneration of Barry Island, amounting to £3.3m in 2013/14.

His message on Monday could have been 'made for

Barry' - as he highlighted his three priorities for target investment.

Firstly, town centres, helping to make sure our high streets are fit for the 21st century.

His **second** priority is coastal communities. He said "We made a commitment in our manifesto to seaside towns. Our whole coastline offers huge opportunities which we want to help our communities to exploit."

The **third** priority is Communities First Clusters, to invigorate those communities as part of our efforts to tackle poverty.

He said that housing associations and other organisations in the sector are already contributing hugely to the regeneration effort; we know this is the case in Barry.

With investment of up to

£30m per year to be made available in the targeted regeneration schemes, it is now up to existing Regeneration Area Partnerships to develop bids for this investment - who are also well-placed to secure additional investment from the public, private and third sectors - all represented on our Barry Regeneration Board.

I have invited the Barry Regeneration Board to my annual spring breakfast at the Glamorgan Suite in Cardiff and Vale College's Colcolt site in Barry this week, with key local partners across these sectors.

This will kick start our discussions about Barry's plans for future regeneration funding and support from the Welsh Government.

Barry has hit the headlines over the past few weeks for the pioneering

work in Regeneration but also for the Launch on International Women's Day of the Barry Women's Trail by the Vale Council Cabinet Members, Councillors Bronwen Brooks and Lis Burnett, who also chairs the Regeneration Board.

At a very moving and inspiring event held at the Memorial Hall on March 8, Professor Deirdre Beddoe spoke about some of the remarkable women featured on the Barry Women's Trail, which marks the birthplaces, homes or favourite spots of 17 women - such as Annie Gwen Vaughan-Jones, who was Secretary of the Cardiff and District Women's Suffrage Society and former student at Aberystwyth University, whose daughter, also featured on the Trail, Gwyneth Valerie Vaughan-Jones, was Headmistress of Barry Girls School between

1939-59. Coun Lis Burnett spoke movingly about two remarkable Barry women featured on the Trail we have sadly lost recently.

They were the first female Mayor and first female Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Margaret Alexander, and Lucy Dickenson, the award-winning social entrepreneur, who created the SAFE Foundation with her twin sister Hannah, directly supporting communities and projects across the world.

The Barry Women's Trail provides a lasting memorial to these exceptional women of Barry and I look forward to following the Trail, as will so many others including many visitors to the Town.

The Trail Guide can be accessed via www.valeof-glamorgan.gov.uk and was featured on S4C this week.

Welsh Assembly Notes



by Vale AM
JANE HUTT
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

HAS THE EDUCATION MINISTER FOR WALES LANDED LABOUR IN VALE WITH A PROBLEM?

THE Labour members of the Vale Council cabinet who are considering changes to schools admissions policy in the Vale appear to have been undermined in the Senedd by the Education Minister, Leighton Andrews - and the Conservatives can't believe their luck.

The Vale Council is currently consulting about the 'feeder schools' system - where various primary schools are linked to a secondary school.

Two schools recently reprieved after the possibility of closure was raised - Llancarfan and Llanfair - are both feeder schools for Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Parents and governors of the schools want to retain that status and fear

that numbers could fall if the school loses it.

The Vale Council, when it started the consultation, described the feeder school system as outdated, and said that many local authorities in Wales had dropped it.

Now, the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, who lives in the Vale, has gleefully seized upon Mr Andrews' latest statement, made in response to a question he put to

him in the Senedd last week.

Mr Davies said: "The Education Minister referred to the importance of 'close relationships between secondary schools and their feeder primary schools'."

"He went on to say of feeder schools, that 'there are lots of good examples and it is something that we (the Welsh Government) wish to encourage'."

Mr Davies said: "At present, Coun Neil Moore and his colleagues are blundering from one disaster to the next, and it is now clear that their ill-conceived proposals to change the catchment system here in the Vale will have no backing from the Labour Education Minister."

"The transition period between primary and secondary education has long been identified as a vital area in a child's development and the feeder model, which has operated with success, provides a buffer which mitigates the shock that can be felt by pupils as they take the step into secondary education."

"This is an excellent model, particularly given the establishment of productive and long-standing relationships between local schools, and I am delighted to hear that the Minister does not share the Vale Council's view that this is an out-dated model."

Paula Ham, head of strategic planning and performance, said the council had recently consulted on changing the arrangements for admission to secondary schools in the Vale.

"The present system gives priority for admission to a secondary school to children attending its named feeder schools, irrespective of where they live."

"The proposal is to

alter the priority given to pupils attending feeder schools when allocating school places so that pupils living in the catchment area of the school are given higher priority in the event that a school is over-subscribed."

"The proposal does not in any way involve

removing the feeder school system established to assist smooth transition from primary to secondary school."

Vale Leader Cllr Neil Moore told The GEM that no decision had yet been made by the Vale Cabinet and if there was a change agreed it would

allow local children from within the catchment area the right to access that school. Yet again, Mr Andrew R T Davies AM is muddying the water, and once again causing unnecessary alarm and anguish to parents and children within the Vale of Glamorgan. A report

on the results of the consultation will be presented to a cabinet meeting in due course, when all the options and consultation results will be considered in full. Only then will a decision be made."

PHILIP IRWIN

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their home as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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Vale Council creates 'Mecca for wildlife'

THE Vale Council is creating a new pond at Cosmeston Lakes, which the rangers hope will become a Mecca for all kinds of amphibian and reptile wildlife, including the Great Crested Newt.

Work on the new pond started earlier this year, with ARC's south Wales habitat creation officer Peter Hill on hand to oversee the excavation.

The pond will be completed in time to attract frogs, toads and newts during early spring when the creatures start to lay their spawn.

Cosmeston already has Great Crested Newts on site, and the new pond will help to strengthen those populations, preventing them

from becoming isolated.

The Great Crested Newt is a threatened species in the UK and has been identified by the Government as a priority for conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP).

Cosmeston Lakes secured a grant from the Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) to excavate a new pond and an area of that will provide hibernacula (otherwise known as homes) to a whole host of amphibians.

A spokeswoman said: "if you're planning a trip to Cosmeston Lakes, take a moment to see how the new pond is progressing - it can be found on the left-hand side as you walk along the boardwalk leading from the car park to the medieval village."

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01656 838304

email: julie-shepherd@hotmail.co.uk

Men who guarded the Wall

THE Berlin Wall and its destruction was the subject of a GEM report recently of a talk by Mrs Jeanne Harvey, at Barry Men's Forum.

Being a frequent visitor beyond the 'Iron Curtain' since the late 1960s, I too visited both east and west Berlin on a number of occasions.

On October 7, 1989, I and others attended a dinner in London with the ambassador to Britain of the GDR/DDR (German Democratic Republic - East Germany). This was only a few weeks before he lost his ambassadorial position, his job, and his country. It was possibly one of the most boring dinners I have attended: the 'entertainment' consisted of extolling the virtues of economic progress in the GDR!

I must take issue with one part of the article, however: those fleeing over the Wall, or under the wire, were not "killed by Soviet guards".

They were killed or injured by fellow East German border guards and, if captured, put into the 'tender care' of the Stasi.

The 'Soviets', ie the Russians, who were present in East Berlin, did not guard the wall; the East German security forces did that themselves.

Christopher Short, Barry.

VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Are you aware of the threat to your local A&E services?

The Local Health Board is currently considering the future of the Accident & Emergency provision at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

Residents in the western Vale depend on the A&E services provided at the Bridgend hospital, as well as the intensive care and maternity services.

I've been contacted by many who are rightly concerned about how such essential care and treatment will be provided on a local basis, should the Health Board choose to close the units as part of their plans for healthcare provision in the future.

Constituents have expressed their very real worries about how the services currently provided at the Princess of Wales hospital could be downgraded.

The Princess of Wales, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital at Llantrisant and the Prince Charles Hospital in Merthyr are all in the running to be designated the regional centre. The two hospitals which fail will see services downgraded.

If the Princess of Wales does not become the regional centre, the current proposals have outlined that its A & E department will be downgraded to a minor injuries unit, the current doctor-led maternity unit will become a midwife-led unit and the children's ward will go - to be replaced by a paediatric assessment unit.

I cannot believe that if children, following assessment, need to be admitted, they will have to go to another hospital. This would be truly horrendous for the child or patient, during what would already be a very stressful time.



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

dous for the child or patient, during what would already be a very stressful time.

GEM readers will be aware that I have raised my concerns many times regarding the Welsh Government funding cuts of over half a billion pounds over the next three years in the Welsh NHS. In contrast, the UK Government is to grow its health spend in real terms over this parliamentary period.

From cancer care and treatment to missed ambulance waiting time targets, it's vital for the Welsh Government to support and invest in its NHS services.

It's ludicrous and frightening to think that mothers to be, heart attack and stroke victims and children will need to be ferried for many extra miles to Cardiff or Llantrisant, rather than the short distance to Bridgend.

The true cost of any reduction in

service provision will be paid by the people of the Vale and Bridgend areas should the Princess of Wales departments be downgraded.

I will be arranging a community round-table and cross-party meeting in Llantwit Major to discuss the issues, raised by the proposals and to plan for responses to the public consultation on the Health Board's plans.

Please do get in contact with me at my constituency office or at alun.cairns.mp@parliament.uk if you'd like to become involved in the campaign to secure the future of the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend.

The more people from the Vale that fight the proposals will ensure that the Health Board realise and continue to invest in the essential services provided at the PoW hospital.

As yet, there is no date confirmed for the publication of the south Wales programme proposals by the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg Health Board, other than it being noted as taking place in spring 2013.

Once published, there will be a period of public consultation, when it will be vital for supporters of the campaign to make their representations to the Health Board.

It's vital that as a community we are ready to help ensure that the residents and businesses of the western Vale can continue to receive excellent care and treatment locally.

I will be doing all I can to support the A&E, maternity and children's ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

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ABOVE: Nancy plays at being a cowgirl!

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Landmark year for our veteran community correspondent... THE GEM'S NANCY DAVIDGE OF LLANGAN - 90 NOT OUT!

LAST week, The GEM's community correspondent for Treoe, Llangan and St Mary Hill, Nancy Davidge, celebrated a personal milestone when she celebrated her 90th birthday.

Remarkably, Nancy has been with The GEM for almost 20 years, providing weekly news from her area for all that time - with the only interruptions for the occasional holiday. Indeed, she often sends in news from Llangan Primary School - the very school she attended when she was just 10 years old!

However, despite her affection for the Vale, Nancy has not always lived in the area. She was born in Trehafod in the Rhondda Valley, where her parents ran a fish and chip shop.

Mum did most of the work running the shop, as her father was a wheelwright but, even with two sources of income, life in the valleys in the 1920s, with the depression at its worst, was very tough.

Eventually, her father packed up the chip shop equipment and the family headed for London, looking for a better life there. However, life was no easier. The East End of London was not a great place to bring up a young child, and it was the time of 'pea souper' fogs, all due to the air pollution of the time.

Nancy's mother was pining for the countryside in the Vale and so the family came back, taking a smallholding in Llangan, and living in the house that she lives in to this day.

So, a 10-year-old Nancy started at Llangan school and she still pops in once a week to see how the children are doing.

She said: "It is like going home. The school has changed so much but it still has the same feeling."

Nancy was 16 when World War Two broke out and, as she was living in Cardiff, she joined the Civil Defence. In the evenings throughout the war, she was an Air Raid Patrol (ARP) warden.

During the day she went to college, and then started work in the Royal Ordnance Factory (ROF) in Llanishen. She also learned to drive, joined the Fire Service and found time to drive a van for Dewhursts the butchers.

You might think that all this pretty much filled her days but she managed one other small thing. She met and married her husband!

Christopher Davidge was serving in the Royal Artillery and the courtship was interrupted (frequently) by his training. As with many other young couples, a time came when they had a decision to make, as Chris was due to be posted overseas.

Nancy said: "A lot of couples decided to wait until after the war, but Chris called to say that he had a few days' embarkation leave. He asked me to marry him and I accepted!"

That triggered a mad two-and-a-half weeks getting ready. Some of the girls from Dewhursts wanted to be bridesmaids, so dresses had to be made and all the other arrangements were made.

The happy couple were married on a Saturday, had a one night honeymoon on the Sunday (in Chepstow) and Chris rejoined his regiment on the Wednesday.

He was to be away for three years and eight months.

A large contingent of Welsh soldiers were posted to India and Burma and many returned in terrible shape after being captured by the Japanese.

Chris escaped capture by the skin of his teeth. His unit was surrounded but, at the last minute, they were rescued by an



ABOVE: Wedding day in Cardiff for Nancy and husband Christopher.



ABOVE: Nancy leads family sing-song

amoured division.

In one of those bizarre coincidences that seem to happen in wartime, he discovered after the war that his brother, George, was in the leading tank of that rescuing division!

Chris came home in 1945, but he did not get off scot free. His time in the tropics had left him with malaria, and Nancy had to watch him suffer through at least three harrowing attacks until he eventually recovered.

When that recovery was complete, it was time to earn a living in post-war Britain, and Chris became a railway fitter. Nancy followed him to London and eventually, they were able to buy their first home - in Stratford, where the London 2012 Olympic Stadium was built.

Nancy said: "I remember that home cost £2,200 and similar homes in that area of London are now almost

£300,000!"

They had a daughter, Gaye, and when they bought her a poodle, it started Nancy on her own career. She said: "We took Gaye's poodle to shows and, before long, other dog owners were asking me to groom their dogs."

Nancy got busier, and she decided to open up in business and it grew until she had 400 dogs on her books and was employing three girls. When the family decided to return to the Vale, in 1978, she spent a number of years running it from a distance, until she eventually sold the business. She still loves animals and has three cats and two dogs.

On the family side, she has one daughter, one grandson and three great grandchildren. Nancy said: "I have had a good life and have done many things that I have always wanted to."

"When I was little, I



ABOVE: Christopher and Nancy.

dreamt of marrying a cowboy, and I did travel all the way to the Rockies and ride a white horse on a cowboy ranch!"

Later in life, she travelled across Canada by bus, and on another occasion saw the sights of New York - heading off to Times Square in the days when it was a den of iniquity, and paying a visit to the United Nations.

More recently, she was still adventurous

enough to head off to Moscow and see the sights there.

At home, she has seen many changes in the Vale. In her own village of Llangan, many of the old cottages have gone, and new houses have been built, but it still retains a village feel - with the community spirit that follows.

And wherever you have a community, it's great to have a community correspondent!

PHILIP IRWIN

Plaid tax rate move defeated

A Plaid Cymru motion to set a council tax rate of three per cent, in line with inflation and the Welsh average, was voted down when the Vale Council set their precept last week.

Plaid Cymru group leader Chris Franks said: "Where we run the council in Dinas Powys we have organised our finances so that we have not had to increase council tax this year. In contrast, Vale residents have a 4.8 per cent rise from the Vale of Glamorgan Council and a 7 per cent police precept rise from Labour's Police and Crime Commissioner."

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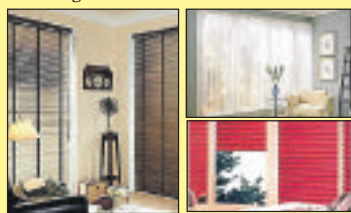
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HOMES in Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan are to benefit from over £1million pounds of household energy efficiency grants from the Welsh Government – as part of a £4.4m scheme announced by Environment Minister John Griffiths AM.

Welsh Government funding of £1,117,628 will “make over 180 homes in Bridgend and the Vale warmer and better to live in”. Eight other councils across Wales are also receiving funding.

Work has already begun on some schemes and all improvements are expected to have been made by the end of June.

Each project varies but examples of work include installing external wall insulation and energy efficient boilers.

The Minister said: “A continuing upward trend in fuel prices means we must do all we can to ensure that Welsh homes are fit for the future.”

“The UK Government’s welfare reforms will have a huge and damaging effect on Wales, hitting the most vulnerable in our communities through to low-middle income families.”

“We are committed to taking action that makes a real, sustainable difference to people across Wales. I am pleased that ten councils applied for funding and are now able to work with local communities to ensure homes are more comfortable and more affordable to heat.”

“Our successful Arbed scheme is an example of sustainability in action – it brings social benefits, it supports the economy and it protects our environment.”

“All projects receiving funding today will use Welsh-based installers or those that have offices here.”

The Welsh Government launched its Arbed scheme three years ago, to make homes more energy efficient. Since then, it says, more than £74m has been spent on measures to improve the energy efficiency of 8,500 homes in some of Wales’ most deprived areas.

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Vale tops the 'home improvements' league

ACCORDING to the latest research into planning applications in Wales by expert provider of market intelligence for the built environment, Barbour ABI, the Vale leads the top 10 home improvement districts.

Barbour ABI conducted an analysis across Wales, the English regions and Scotland.

The Vale came closest to the average across Great Britain of 1.64 applications for every 100 private homes with the council receiving an average of

1.47.

It is regarded as a wealthy area in Wales with plenty to attract tourists so it is likely to see relatively more investment in home improvement.

Intriguingly, Blaenau Gwent, one of the poorer districts, jumped up to second in the Welsh league of home improvement areas in 2012.

Much of this increase appears to have been down to the energy saving initiatives leading to an increase in such improvements as external wall insulation.

The Vale has led the home improvements 'Welsh League' for three years now.

VALE PLANNING

Mr John Cox – 7 Norwood Crescent, Coldbrook, Barry – Proposed single storey extension to form shower room and utility area. Vale of Glamorgan Council – Various sites at Five Mile Lane, Barry – Various side road junctions along Five Mile Lane (A4226). Mr Raymond Colley – 18, Buckingham Place, Barry – A single storey extension which is to the rear elevation of the

property. Mr Nick and Mrs Rachael Brace – Llwyn On, Gwern y Steeples, Peterston Super Ely – Proposed first floor side extension, new rear dormer and detached double garage. Mrs Alison Warren – 1 Esgid Mair, Barry – Garage conversion. Mr Ronald Cowley – Police House, 1 Old Port Road, Wenvoe – Wall to east side of house (Port Road). Mr and Mrs A Dare –

Southern part of the site of The Croft, Parc Newydd, Treoes – Application to have legal agreement (ref 96/01123/OUT) rescinded to allow additional dwelling to be constructed on the land. Mr James Bloomfield – Glenteifi, Railway Terrace, Penarth – Retain as built dormer roof/roof conversion incorporating bedroom/bathroom.

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Vale MP hits out over latest ambulance response times

VALE MP Alun Cairns has reacted with "anger and disappointment" - after only 61 per cent of urgent (category A) ambulance calls from the Vale arrived at their destination within the target eight-minute time in January, according to the latest data published.

Mr Cairns has called on the Welsh Health Minister and Welsh Government to respond. Out of 587 calls made to the Ambulance service, only 353 arrived within the designated time-frame. The target time is 65 per cent in Wales, although there is an expectation that 75 per cent should be met in England.

The Welsh Government's statistics service highlights snow

as a factor during January. The last time the 65 per cent category A target was met was in May last year.

Mr Cairns said: "The Vale is missing out again. I fear particularly for areas like Llantwit and the villages around the western parts of the county.

"The number of urgent 999 calls answered by an ambulance within the target time dipped again during January. I have called for the Welsh Government to act on this matter many times over the last two years.

"It is vital that we gain assurance from the Minister that the review of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust will deliver improved response times for our community.

"Despite the best efforts of dedicated ambulance staff, the service is not delivering

the standard of service that patients expect and deserve.

"One constituent in the Vale who was suffering from breathing problems waited over an hour for an ambulance to arrive after an initial 999 call (identified as 'category A'). Another was a stroke victim, and a further patient was suffering from chest pains - all waited over an hour. The target time is eight minutes.

"Hardworking paramedics need to be backed up by fresh investment in response vehicles and smoother transition arrangements at hospitals to prevent ambulances being blocked up waiting to provide patients.

"I fear that such investment may be difficult, due to cuts to the Welsh NHS, which is the only part of the NHS that is receiving a budget reduction."

A wee bit of help from the Vale Mayor



Vale Mayor, Coun Eric Hacker, and Rowan Hughes, with a photo of the toilet in Burundi.

IN 2009, two international charities, Cord and Tearfund, launched a Toilet Twinning project to provide toilets to villages in Burundi and Cambodia.

The charities wished to highlight the need for safer sanitation in the world's poorest countries.

Every day 2.6 billion people have nowhere safe, private or hygienic to go to the toilet.

The Mayor of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker, was approached by Rowan Hughes, the council's environmental health officer, to support this initiative and he agreed to twin the Mayor's toilet in the Town Hall with a toilet in Burundi.

Rowan explained: "Having seen some of the facilities in Rwanda,

I am aware of how we take good sanitation for granted and as an environmental health officer, wanted to support this project.

"I am delighted the Mayor has agreed to help and I am hoping to encourage staff in the Civic Office to follow suit and twin a toilet in the Civic Office."

Coun Hacker said: "In rural Burundi, less than half the population has access to a loo and for just £60 we have been able to help the people in Giharo, Burundi to have access to safe sanitation."

Since 2009, more than 1,600 latrines have been built in Burundi, providing safe loos for nearly 10,000 people.

To find out more about toilet twinning, go to www.toilettwinning.org.

Penarth Computer Club news PASSING THE ATTITUDE TEST

DO you have attitude? Not the in your face, aggressive kind, but the right approach to life's challenges? It is said that everyone hates change; it can certainly be a bit of a pain, but it depends on your attitude towards it.

Two instances spring to mind. Whenever a client brought to one of my bosses a job that involved applying an expertise we didn't have, he didn't turn it away, he grasped it as an opportunity to learn something new, and we made the effort, and we expanded the range of services the firm could provide.

I learnt from another source that, when faced with what most people would consider a problem, life is easier if one treated it as an inconvenience and adjusted ones mindset to suit.

Both these ideas have immense relevance these days, as so much change is taking place in so many aspects of life - especially in the digital worlds of computing and communications.

Do we welcome the chance to learn new skills, or ignore the developments and hope that they pass us by?

The answer might depend on the perceived effort required to obtain a satisfactory reward (i.e. skill). The snag with this line of thinking is a tendency to exaggerate the effort and diminish the value of a reward that has yet to be experienced. It might be the other way around.

Familiarising yourself with a new machine is usually rewarding because the new machine is quicker and more powerful. Learning your way around a new operating system and new applications will take longer for the benefits to become obvious.

We are used to reminding users that the first things they learn are probably not the best way to do things and to seek out more options to find more efficient methods. It's the right attitude.

Computer manufacturers are in competition and need to produce improvements to stay in business. They need to convince customers that new products are better. To get a more detached view it is worth reading independent reviews and customers' comments.

The sheer numbers of users and the pace of development means that there will be many users

taking the new stuff on board because their old kit simply has to be replaced.

The press will quickly be reporting general impressions and you can take advantage of users' experiences.

Do not fear the new advances, but pay attention to the benefits that will come your way.

You might not need more than you have, but if your machine is getting too old or the applications are no longer supported you will be happier if you welcome the improvements, even at the cost of having to work harder for a while.

When all is said and done, think about your attitude and act accordingly.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, March 26 at All Saints Lesser Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, 7.30 pm. Kevin S will be showing how to use Powerpoint. See our website at penarth-computerclub.co.uk.

Howard Desmond

EGG HEAD!

On Friday, while the pupils of Y Bont Faen Primary were happily celebrating World Book Day, a strange object appeared within the grounds... a rather large egg!

Everyone came to look at the egg and tried hard to deduce what type of creature could have laid the egg.

There were some clues... the egg was laid in a rather well-built nest and there was a glittery trail of prints leading from the egg to the far off reaches of the school grounds.

What could it be? The pupils spent the day creating stories, news reports, documentaries and animations based on the egg's sudden appearance - with some Year 6 investigators trying to expose the 'truth' on camera, in a very Jeremy Paxman-esque style, that the egg was placed there by one of the staff - namely, Mr Griffiths!

The whole school was buzzing with the possibilities of the mysterious egg - so much so, that the work will continue on this mystery for the next few weeks.

The day formed part of a wider literacy drive, which Y Bont Faen has been working on for over a year with Big Writing and the new National Framework for Literacy.

The pupils' work will be available online shortly

YOU CAN'T GET MUCH LOWER THAN THIS..!

THE speaker at the Barry Men's Forum meeting last week was Dr Edward Hellewell, who has played in most of the great British orchestras during his 60 years.

He detailed how his parents had given him a viola for his seventh birthday, which was a

disappointment to him as he was hoping for a Hornby train set!

Nevertheless, four years later he gave his first concert in south Yorkshire, and in fact became a professional musician at that point, as he was paid the handsome sum of £1.

At the age of 13, he joined the local colliery band and transferred to the trombone, before

joining the Skyliners Dance Band. When he went to university he joined the orchestra, playing the trombone, before being persuaded to change to the largest of the stringed instruments, the double bass.

Dr Hellewell had brought along to the Forum his new three quarter size double bass, which even so still weighed 28lbs, and he had named it 'Wilf'. He had recently had made in Austria a copy of an 18th century instrument from Maple and Spruce, and it was valued at £20,000.

He explained it was in need of 'playing in', and he hoped the Forum members would not be too critical of the tone of the new instrument, whose tone will improve with age.

He then went on to demonstrate a number of orchestral pieces where the double bass is the foremost instrument. He completed his interesting talk and performances with Saints Saens' 'The Elephant' from 'The Carnival of the Animals'.

New members Nigel Vick and Martin Riggott were welcomed by the chairman. All are welcome to come along to The Barry Men's Forum which meet at Windsor Road Church Hall every Thursday morning at 10.15am.

On March 21, the speaker will be Rosemary Scadden whose talk is entitled 'I was Harry Secombe's Stand-in.' For further information contact the chairman, Peter Westcott, on 02920 594881. PMW

What do you think of 20mph speed limit?

RESIDENTS in the Vale are to be asked for their views on 20mph zones for Penarth and Llandough.

The consultation opens on March 18 in the wake of a report presented at a Vale Council cabinet meeting in Penarth on January 21, which raised the possibility of creating 20mph zones in Penarth and Llandough.

Cabinet member for regeneration, innovation, planning and transportation, Coun Lis Burnett, said: "The idea was initially raised by residents in both Penarth and Llandough and so we want to understand local people's thoughts about possible 20mph zones in Penarth and Llandough."

"The consultation will be open to all residents and will feel more like a conversation in which we will only seek to find out if residents generally welcome the idea and whether there is support for an in-depth investigation into the viability of a 20mph zone or zones."

"Detail such as where any zones might begin and end, how they would be implemented and so forth, would only

be looked at if residents tell us that's what they want, and would of course require careful planning and further consultation."

What price financial prudence?

WE continually hear how hard up the Vale is for finances and that Council Tax will need to rise above the inflation rate or critical services will have to be cut.

Why then are large amounts of money being spent fussing with existing footpaths at many of our road junctions, typically the traffic lights at Llanmaes Road junction, Llantwit Major.

To cap it all, some of the work is being accomplished on a Sunday, presumably on premium rate?

Surely the 'white elephant' cycle track along Port Road, Barry that no-one seems to use should have been less on enough?

What happened to simple prudence? **Marc White Llanmaes**

Daffs and dancing on St David's Day

BUNCHES of daffodils gave the Community Hall a festive air as Rhose WI president Jenny Reed welcomed members to a St David's Day celebration.

Members were reminded of a number of forthcoming events, including the spring council meeting at Porthcawl on April 29. They also learned that two members were in hospital and visits were arranged.

Nominations for the committee were asked for prior to the AGM in May. After business was concluded, the guest for the evening was welcomed; Eleanor Macnamara, a fellow member from St Athan WI, who introduced everyone to the delights of Welsh folk dancing.

A great time ensued, with members performing with enthusiasm, and there was much hilarity as the sets tried to keep time and remember the steps!

Our teacher was very patient and everyone enjoyed the experience. During a break, when Welsh cakes and bara

brith were served, a booklet containing the entries for the annual limerick competition was circulated.

Afterwards, a further dance was attempted and then Eleanor entertained the gathering with extracts from Dylan Thomas' 'Under Milk Wood'.

Eileen Eeles thanked Eleanor for an entertaining evening. Finally, the winners of the competition and the raffle were announced with Barbara Goodway winning the former, with her photograph depicting 'Welsh Life'. The raffle was won by Beryl Lang.

The next meeting will take place on April 4 at 7.30pm in the Community Hall, Stewart Road, when members will model fashions supplied by Samantha B of Ewenny. New members and visitors will be very welcome.

Forthcoming events: March 2 at 6pm - dinner at The Six Bells, Penmark; March 22 at 2pm - skittles at Rhose Social Club and afterwards tea and cake at Coffee Time; every Tuesday at 11am, coffee and chat.

Transport police chief for Wales

BRITISH Transport Police (BTP) has announced the appointment of a Superintendent for the Welsh sector, Andy Morgan, who spent 29 years with South Wales Police, in a variety of roles, most recently as Chief Inspector of Operations for the Bridgend borough.

Wales and Western Area Commander, Chief Superintendent Peter Davies, said: "Andy was very highly thought of at South Wales Police and his promotion to Superintendent with BTP will enhance and improve our service delivery throughout Wales."

Mr Morgan, aged 47, said he was excited about his new role and was looking forward to further strengthening BTP's role within UK

policing. He describes himself as "an operational officer through and through", and lives in Porthcawl with his wife and 12-year-old daughter.

A proud Welsh speaker, he was educated at Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari. While acknowledging the differences between the four Welsh police forces and BTP, Mr Morgan was also keen to point out the key aims and objectives remain the same.

"I've moved from a localised police service in south Wales, dictated day-to-day by defined geographical boundaries, to a nationwide force that operates across borders," he added.

"At the end of the day, however, we all form part of a UK police service."

Out and About with The GEM

TRIP TO OZ IS A MAGICAL EXPERIENCE



by GARETH JAMIESON
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YOU would have to be pretty hard-hearted not to love the wonderful *Wizard of Oz*.

Even at 74 years of age, the film is a truly mesmerising example of cinema, and has rightly stood the test of time.

So it would take a brave filmmaker to approach that world again – but Sam Raimi is one such director, handling helming duties on a prequel of sorts, *Oz The Great and*

Powerful.

James Franco plays Oscar, a Kansas stage magician who finds himself blown away in a hot air balloon by a hurricane to the land of Oz.

When he gets there, he finds himself lauded as the great magician who has come to save the people of Oz, something complicated by three witches, Theodora (Mila Kunis), Evanora (Rachel Weisz) and Glinda (Michelle Williams) who all have their own motives with Oscar...

It's difficult enough to approach a sequel or prequel to a film, without having the pressures of trying to match something as beloved as *The Wizard of Oz*;

1985's *Return To Oz* was a poor film that looked even worse when compared with the 1939 classic – so there must have been plenty of chutzpah in Sam Raimi's decision to dig into the origins of the titular wizard in *Oz The Great and Powerful*.

Thankfully, for both Raimi and the multitude of fans of *The Wizard of Oz* (this writer among them), the film is wonderfully entertaining, respectful of the original film, but one that works on its own terms and plays out with a joyous twinkle.

Raimi has always been a director not afraid to let the camera work its magic (just see his work on the original

Evil Dead or, on a bigger budget, the transformation of Doctor Octopus in *Spiderman 2*), and coupled with a world as vivid as Oz and 3D technology, he creates a film visually gorgeous and breathtaking, looking absolutely glorious.

As *Life of Pi* and *Avatar* showed, the more vividly colourful a film, the better the end result with 3D, and the same rule applies here, the film leaping off the screen in places – but done with subtlety and style, the film immersive without feeling too gimmicky.

There are plenty of nods to the 1939 film contained within, some all too apparent and others little kernels that are

for the die-hards – but all lend a magical atmosphere in keeping with *The Wizard...*, the care and reverence all pervading and more than welcome.

The performances by the cast are also a cut above the usual family fare, with James Franco shining in the lead role.

Certainly his character and his arc are well-worn, but Franco, who is on an impressive run of form of late, gives Oscar plenty of life, ably supported by Zach Braff, pulling double-duty as Oscar's assistant and an unbelievably cute CGI monkey with the best lines, the pair giving the film a great energy.

The witches bring their usual sheen of

class, Weisz relishing playing the mischievous Evanora and Williams giving the angelic Glinda a glint of mischief; Mila Kunis has arguably the most weight to carry, but her performance is just as enjoyable as the others, the film well-acted across the board.

While the script struggles to match the inventiveness of Raimi's direction, feeling a little too predictable and playing a little too broadly at times, it doesn't distract from how enjoyable a piece it is, and it should also be noted that it has to work within the confines of *The Wizard...* due to its nature.

All in all, however, *Oz The Great and*

Powerful makes for a great companion piece and other trips to Oz would be a more than welcome experience if Raimi and Co. stay on board.

VERDICT - *Oz The Great and Powerful* is well-titled, a superb film that is a magical cinematic experience. Undemanding but faithful to the 1939 film, and with superb direction from Sam Raimi and strong turns, this is one trip well worth taking. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Wizard of Oz* (1939), *Alice in Wonderland* (2010)

Vale Brass Band springs into 2013!

ON March 4, the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band under Dave Short, started their 2013 season with a spring concert at the Dinas Powys Parish Hall.

The audience, which included Coun Jeff James (band president) received the concert well.

It was supported by the Barry Choral Society (under Emma Arscott) and the Vale training band (Chris Murray).

The band played a selection of pieces, including 'Hey Jude', featuring the horn section. Other soloists were Alex Fender (bagpipes) Dave Weton (saxophone) and Tony Williams (euphonium).

The items from the choir were varied and included 'Irish Blessing'. The playing of the training band showed it will be in good hands in the future. It has a busy year planned with concerts and competitions. AW

New choir's first concerts

LAST Saturday and Sunday, Penarth's new ladies' choir, Allegro, under musical director Ray Dibble, performed their first two concerts.

A spokesman said: "What an exciting two evenings this proved to be, with superb vocal arrangements covering a range of music from 'You Raise Me Up' to 'If I Loved You' from *Carousel*.

"The audiences loved every minute, with Mark Thompson introducing the items in his usual fun-filled delivery.

"The choir was joined by opera singer, Luther Vaughan, who gave a mix of operatic favourites and songs from *Les Miserables*. In contrast 12-year-old Jack Sullivan, who is already under theatrical manage-

ment, thrilled with 'Somewhere Over The Rainbow' and 'Where Is Love' from *Oliver*.

"The programme included a selection of Welsh favourites, with a touch of Ivor Novello sung superbly by Catherine Howard, and a touch of *Porgy and Bess*

from Jenny Harvey, both members of the choir.

"We look forward to more evenings like this with Allegro (Penarth Voices In Harmony)."

For more information on joining the choir, telephone 029 20217681.

Vale festival

THE Vale of Glamorgan Festival takes place from May 9-18, and will feature six world premieres and seven European premieres.

These will include new works by composers Sebastian Currier, Graham Fitkin, and Ramunas Motiekaitis, choral commissions by Galina Grigorieva, Aaron

Kernis and John Metcalf plus the first performance of Heartland Percussion Concerto by BBC National Orchestra of Wales' Composer in Residence, Mark Bowden.

Full information on festival events is available from www.vale-of-glamorganfestival.org.uk. Tickets are available from www.vale-of-glamorganfestival.ticketsource.co.uk or by calling 00844 8700 887.

WHAT'S ON IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Surgery change

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery tomorrow, Friday, March 15 (and NOT as previously advertised, on March 22).

The surgery will be held at The Gathering Place St Athan CF62 4JH from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Penarth surgery

ELUNED PARROTT, AM for South Wales Central, will be holding an advice surgery on March 15 at Tesco Superstore, Terra Nova Way, Penarth, CF64 1SA between 1 pm and 2 pm.

Residents who have any issues of concern, to them or their local community, are encouraged to go along. No appointment necessary.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills and court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans and Stuart Egan, will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, March 16, from 10 am till 11.30 am in the meeting room of Barry Library Kings Square.

No appointment necessary.

St Brides Major celebration

Saturday, March 16, sees the first anniversary of the grand opening of the community library at St Brides Major.

A spokeswoman said: "Our local author, Leela

Dutt, is coming for an hour to help us celebrate. She will be available to show you her books and talk about her work.

"Please come on Saturday, between 10 am and 12 noon, to help us celebrate a very successful year in the church hall.

"There will be coffee and tea and free Welsh cakes!"

Diabetes group meeting

The next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Voluntary Group, Diabetes UK group will be on Tuesday, March 19 at the Board Room, Llandough Hospital at 7.30 pm.

The speaker will be Professor FS Wong.

Arthritis advice

AGE Concern Cardiff and Vale is holding an advice session on arthritis care at the Senior Health Shop Holton Road on March 19 from 10 am to midday.

Further information on 01446/732385.

Art society

ON Thursday March 21, Cowbridge Art Society will hold its annual Keith James Trophy competition, when members will submit artworks for adjudication by Abergavenny artist Jantien Powell.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm - 9pm) and visitors are welcome.

For full programme, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Cavatina concert

'DIAL M for Music' is the theme of Cavatina Singers' next concert on Saturday, March 23 starting at 3 pm in All Saints' Church, Victoria Square, Penarth.

Pieces will include madrigals, motets, Magnificat (Vivaldi) and composers such as Mendelssohn, Mozart and Morten Lauridsen.

Soloists from the Royal Welsh college of Music and Drama; tickets £7 (students £5) available at the door.

Palm Sunday
TO mark Palm Sunday on March 24, All Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be holding a family service at 10 o'clock.

There will be worship items suitable for all ages and refreshments are served afterwards. Creche facilities available.

All are welcome. Visit www.allsaintspenarth.org.uk.

Virtuoso recital

ON April 4 organist Penny Weedon-Kerr will appear at 7.30 pm in All Saints church, Barry, in a bid to help raise over £70,000 for vital organ repairs.

The appeal now stands at £64,000 since the launch in May 2011. She will be performing on her Tyros keyboard under the heading 'An Orchestra at my Fingertips'.

Tickets are priced at £5 adults and £2.50 for children, available from Ann Elliott on 01446 745997, or payable on the door.

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Schools compete to be Youth Speaks champions



The intermediate contestants.



The senior contestants.

IN a contest organised by Rotary, 51 contestants from 15 schools across south Wales came together on March 8 to fight out the title for Youth Speaks Champions, south Wales.

The venue was Barry and Vale College and the competition was held in two age groups, with intermediates representing those aged 11 to 14, and seniors 15 to 17.

In a tightly-fought contest with teams of chairman, speaker, and proposer of the vote of thanks, St John Lloyd Catholic Comprehensive School in Llanelli were deemed the winners.

But the team of Nia Fenn, Lois Aled, and

Caleb Darwin of Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry were named the runners-up. In addition, Lois Aled was deemed best speaker.

In the seniors, the winning team was Aimee Delaney, Lissie Wallington, and Sarah Jayne Griffiths of Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School in Barry and go through to the next round, to be held on April 13.

District governor of Rotary for south Wales, Bob Lewis, complimented the teams on some outstanding performances. He said that each student had done extremely well in reaching this, the third round of the competition, and should feel extremely proud of themselves.

ROBIN PITCHER

£1,500 Rotary gift for brain injury centre

ON February 23, the president of the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys, Gerard Crosby and fellow Rotarian, Neil Gaskell, visited Headway Cardiff's Day Centre – to present them with a cheque for £1,500.

Gerard had nominated Headway Cardiff as his charity of the year, in recognition of the work they do with his brother, Kevin, who sustained a brain injury following a haemorrhage nearly three years ago.

Gerard said: "Kevin is no longer able to work, but needs to be challenged and stimulated in an environment that understands the subtle cognitive and emotional difficulties that he now experiences.

"His Friday at Headway is central to his week, and we have seen

some of the old Kevin return since he has been attending.

"It also means that he has support from others who really understand what he has, and is going through, which is important when life changes so dramatically."

Headway Cardiff has provided support to hundreds of people with a brain injury each year for over 30 years – but still there is a lack of services for survivors and their families.

Julie Smith, general manager of Headway Cardiff, said: "Whilst surgical and medical interventions continue to improve, and the numbers of people surviving injuries each year increases, the services that help people achieve the highest level of independence and the best quality of life possible are underfunded or, in worst cases, ignored."

Getting prepared for the spring at Fonmon Apiary

SPRING is definitely trying to put in an appearance; however, the cold easterly winds are going to hold back any activity so far as the bees are concerned.

The lengthening daylight hours are certainly stimulating the colonies but, until the temperatures show a decided rise not much exterior activity will be on show.

At present my main concern is the food stores, or as the case may be, the lack of them. The bees are definitely active within the hives and, of course, this activity means that energy is required.

To provide the energy, the bees depend on the food stores within the hive and as they diminish, the bees could very easily starve. It is up to the beekeeper to prevent this from occurring.

How can this be done? My approach is to go to the rear of the hive and slip my fingers underneath the base and by gently raising it whilst applying a forward tipping motion, this action will provide me with a very rough indication as to the hive's total contents ie bees and stores.

Some hives feel decidedly lighter than others and over the years this method has enabled me to plan a course of action. You can take the roof off if you desire, as roofs can add considerably to the weight. In the event that I do remove a roof, I do not disturb the crown board at all.

At present, some of the colonies are having their stores supplemented by me as a result of my rudimentary weighing exercise, using either

ready rolled strips of icing sugar or a superior product called Ambrosia Sugar Dough, both of these products will provide the bees with a ready to eat energy source and help to stave off starvation.

To add this supplementary food, I need to remove the roof and the crown board, being as gentle as I can so that I do not cause any undue disturbance. I then lay strips of said feed directly onto the frames and reassemble the hive.

Several hives have a tray beneath the open mesh floor. When I withdraw a tray, the debris pattern, ie straight lines of wax cappings on the floor of the tray, indicate where the bees are in the hive – and, of course, informs me that they are uncapping and consuming previously stored nectar or the liquid sugar I may have fed to them in the previous autumn. With the debris will be dead Varroa

mites; all of this debris I remove and put it into marked containers for closer inspection and the counting of the dead mites.

This counting of mites is not a legal requirement, but it does give me an indication as to the level of infestation the bees are confronted with. The control of the Varroa mite has to be a prime function of every beekeeper.

Until better conditions prevail, I shall carry on preparing and cleaning as much equipment as I can, ready to meet the requirements of each of the colonies that are in my care.

Should fair weather be our lot, the bees will step up their activity and will not wait for me at all.

Take heed of the Scouts' motto – 'BE PREPARED!'

HAROLD WILLIAMS

Ty Hafan lottery

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D765.

● £2,000: 341044.

● The rollover, which now stands at £10,000, was not won this week.

● £10: 6 0 8 7 7 0 . 933165, 566654, 256929, 339297, 871241, 947143, 144225, 285568, 692310, 538432, 978572, 799040, 448147, 31039, 386975, 800741, 508341, 728959, 284867.

● £5: 459978, 676491, 250395, 781095, 416022, 604226, 793253, 190773, 507963, 818137, 346919, 534007, 221935,

625819, 106069, 504399, 656624, 472836, 236322, 518332, 221377, 348379, 686755, 311838, 477986, 308411, 277951, 329370, 196591, 360589, 840194, 558045, 434594, 941380, 858617, 664105, 563921, 992260, 838888, 699006, 499000, 272845, 416386, 193599, 840934, 863528, 277505, 568815, 724124, 543154, 537004, 430643, 865051, 731183, 612343, 709979, 378921, 874214, 919602.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information, please telephone 029 2053 2300.

'Diving board rock' provides photo opportunity for the Vale Ramblers

A GROUP of 14 walkers set out from Llanfrynach, near Brecon, for a strenuous 10 mile, strenuous walk up onto Bwlch y Ddwyllt – and around the rim of the huge Cwm Oergwm to Fan-y-Big.

The weather was not very kind. Temperatures had been very low overnight and the ground was frozen solid.

The cloud was down and so none of the magnificent views were seen as we made our way up.

We had two new walkers with us, but both proved to be well 'up to the job'.

We found a sheltered spot for lunch and sat on the ice-encrusted ground, occasionally catching a glimpse of the sun, struggling to make its way through the cloud.

As we reached Fan-y-Big the visibility suddenly improved and Cribyn appeared to the west.

A pair of brave young girls took turns posing for photos, perched on the 'diving board' rock which juts frighteningly



Walkers make their way through the gloom.

out over the sheer drop.

They were also rather foolhardy as they had walked up without a map and realised that, in following us, they were coming down on the northern flank with about six miles extra to get back to their car at Talybont.

This was solved by the offer of a lift from one of our group.

With excellent views now developing around us perhaps we had forgotten to watch the slippery ground, which caught

Gwendolyn unawares and resulted in a broken ankle.

The group rallied round. Most of us made

our way quickly back to fetch a car, leaving two capable chaps to look after poor Gwendolyn.

Fortunately, a friendly farmer came along with a quad bike and ferried her down to the road, where she did not have long to wait.

Unfortunately the Swan in Llanfrynach had just closed when we got there, but we had enjoyed an exhilarating day and again appreciated the need to respect the mountains.

For more information visit www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

We're also on Facebook and Twitter.

Leigh Forman

It's Wales V England (for Bowel Cancer UK) before Grand Slam decider!



Alun Cairns MP and Andrew RT Davies AM will be on opposing sides when the Welsh Assembly rugby team takes on the Commons and Lords this Saturday. They are pictured with a representative of Bowel Cancer UK, the charity benefiting from the match.

THE charity, Bowel Cancer UK, will be the winner when a National Assembly for Wales' team takes on the Commons and Lords for the annual Parliamentary Cup this Saturday.

The match takes place at Cardiff Quins RFC, Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch, at 11 am. Entry is free of charge, with donations going to the charity.

Normally, Conservatives Andrew RT Davies AM and Alun Cairns MP are on the same side, but this time they are in opposition.

Andrew RT Davies told The GEM: "Since our first match, the Assembly team have raised well over £10,000 for

Bowel Cancer UK, so I would urge anyone who can, to come along and support this fundraising effort on Saturday."

Mr Davies added that he hoped the Welsh Assembly would triumph as a curtain-raiser to Wales prize the Six Nations' Championship from England at the Millennium Stadium in the afternoon.

Save The Children
'SEREN FACH' cafe in Well Street, Porthcawl is supporting Save The Children for the month of April, by selling raffle tickets – and leaflets will also be available to find out more about the work Save The Children carries out in Wales, as well as other countries.



GEM RURAL PROFILE

Seasonal Country and Farming Update



CRC funding helps to boost projects across the rural Vale

FROM projects that aim to attract visitors to the Vale, to schemes that enhance services for local communities, Creative Rural Communities (CRC), the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative, is offering a variety of grants to communities and rural businesses.

Over the past 12 months, Creative Rural Communities, supported by the Rural Partnership, has invested £1,075,000 in supporting 57 innovative projects and ideas which have improved the long term social and economic wellbeing of the rural Vale.

It has been stated that one of the keys to success of Creative Rural Communities is that it is

administered locally by the Vale Council, but led by a multi-sector partnership where local people are able to steer the direction of funding and strategy to fit the needs of the rural Vale.

Phil Chappell, of Creative Rural Communities, explained: "The range of projects that have previously received funding from Creative Rural Communities just high-

lights the wealth and diversity of what the rural Vale has to offer.

"Building on the success of 2012, we are currently awarding funding to support a range of diverse projects from community groups wishing to grow their own food under our 'Community Foodie' programme, to new and existing initiatives that encourage tourism in the Vale.

"We also have grants of up to £40,000 available to support new footpaths to link villages, people and places, as well as grants of up to £40,000 available to support the enhancement of

existing services to rural pubs, shops and community venues. "Funding to date has made a considerable difference to both services and amenities for local residents and potential tourists. "We look forward to receiving applications for a range of new and exciting projects and ideas under our various funding programmes."

Vale residents, groups and businesses can find out more about funding opportunities by visiting the Creative Rural Communities team at Old Hall, Cowbridge High Street or by calling 01446 704754, or emailing create@valeofglam-organ.gov.uk.

For more information on Creative Rural Communities visit: www.creativeruralcommunities.co.uk.

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Shane Williams, Dan Lydiate and Dafydd Jones meet with some young fans during the launch of Oil 4 Wales' new depot in Felinfach.



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GEM RURAL PROFILE

Seasonal Country and Farming Update



Rural pub sees advantage in providing extra service

A father and son from Barry have converted a local pub in picturesque Llanblethian, near Cowbridge, to include a new convenience-store service for the community with the help of a grant from Creative Rural Communities (CRC).

While an increasing number of local pubs are being bought out by major supermarket branches, the Cross Inn has been given a new lease of life thanks to funding from CRC, the Vale Council's rural regeneration initiative, and advice and support from 'Pub is The Hub', the rural pubs organisation.

CRC's Rural Hubs grant scheme aims to diversify existing services, such as local pubs and community spaces, in order to offer new and improved services, as well as creating and securing a future for vibrant community hubs.

Since 2001, Pub is The Hub has encouraged local communities, licensees and pub owners to work in partnership to support, retain and locate local services, wherever possible, within the one place that is accessible, open and welcoming; the local pub.

The grant awarded to the Cross Inn, the first pub in the rural Vale to benefit from a CRC Rural Hubs grant, has enabled Arthur O'Leary and his son, Liam, to carry out the necessary renovations to launch the convenience-store service, including the construction of an oak cabinet, refrigeration, lighting and new signage to promote the new facility to locals and visitors.

The new service will enable customers to purchase home-made produce directly from the kitchen at Cross Inn, as well as other produce supplied from neighbouring farms and local providers. The pub will also stock a range of everyday essentials including milk, bread and sugar.

After 30 years serving as a landlord in a public house in Barry, Arthur O'Leary saw an opportunity to expand the existing facilities at Cross Inn in Llanblethian, which include a bar and restaurant,



and increase what's on offer for the local community.

He said: "Having worked in the industry for a number of years, Liam and I recognised the increasing demand for services which make life easier for members of the community. By creating a convenience-store service at Cross Inn, we hope to attract villagers in to pick up those everyday items that they need as well as encouraging them to stop for a drink or something to eat."

ABOVE:
Liam and Arthur O'Leary are now supplying pints of milk, along with pints of ale!

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Wythnos Cymraeg at Barry Comprehensive



ABOVE: Lewis Price, Gethin Stuckey and Michael Iannucci with their certificates.



ABOVE: One of the day's highlights, Oliver Bartlett and Connor Blake took joint first for the solo competition.



ABOVE: Year-9 DT Home Learning winners Tyler Ellis, Cory Eason, and Lewis Gibbon.



ABOVE: Year-7 French singing competition winners, Oliver Haines-Knight and Joseph Salmon

WYTHNOS C'mon Cymraeg Week at Barry Comprehensive was an opportunity to raise the profile of the Welsh language and the culture of Wales in the school.

Members of staff included the 'phrases of the day' in their teaching to use Welsh across the curriculum.

There was a wide range of home learning competitions, including the art department's 'Google Design' and the 'Welsh Car' theme in technology classes.

Pupils also entered into a dragon hunt and Welsh food tasting, where the cawl and Welsh cheese went down well but the laverbread was less popular!

The week concluded with the eisteddfod, when pupils from years 7, 8 and 9 came together to celebrate in their house colours – green for Ty Gruffydd, red for Ty Hywel, yellow for Ty Llywelyn, and blue for Ty Owain.

There was a vibrant mixture of the traditional and the modern. Traditional competitions included the house choir, English choral recitations and instrumental competitions.

More modern takes on Eisteddfod, included bush tucker trials, involving leeks and cockles. Many certificates and medals (produced by the technology department) were presented for onstage competitions and home learning.

It was great to welcome Mr Lyn Howell back to join the judging panel of Miss Llinos Evans (head of languages) and Miss Karen Walters (head of creative arts). The chairing ceremony was traditional and the new school eisteddfod chair was used for the first time.

The chair was awarded to the best piece of poetry written by a year-8 student. It was announced that 'Tom Jones' was triumphant and with the call of the trumpets, and a very long pause, Tom Broadbent stood to his feet smiling, as the 2013 bard.

He was escorted to the stage by head boy Mathew Williams and head girl Lilibeth James, and the whole audience participated in the traditional chairing ceremony. Mr McNamara (headteacher) presented Tom with his model chair, which was made by Mr Paul Bartlett from the technology department, and his medal was presented by Mrs Jennifer Ford (deputy head).

The poem, which was on the theme of Wales, was read by Miss Laura Nicklin from the English department.

For the final competition, each house gave a rousing rendition of the national anthem, with the judges deciding that Ty Llywelyn gave the best performance. The scores were added up and the final results were announced.

Ty Llywelyn were awarded the eisteddfod cup and Mr Manley, jubilant house captain of Llewellyn, said: "I am delighted with the way all the students in the house responded to the eisteddfod, pushing themselves to get maximum marks."

"Having Tom Broadbent, the bard, in Llewellyn was the icing on the cake!"

The C'mon Cymraeg Week was a huge success and we look forward to Wales' next Six Nations game having practised Hen Wlad fy Nhadau! C'mon Cymru!

AC



ABOVE: Tom Broadbent, this year's bard, seated in the eisteddfod chair, as Miss Nicklin reads his winning poem.



ABOVE: Year-7 art winners Ryan Aherne, Cameron Owen and Joshua Peets.



Mr Manley, jubilant house captain of Llewellyn, holds the Cup aloft.



ABOVE: Rhys Horton and Ellis Robon, with Mr McNamara, wearing medals for their dramatic readings



ARMS ALOFT as the results are announced.

Students reinvent Welsh national costume – in time for St David's Day!

FASHION students from Cardiff and Vale College have brought a new twist to Welsh national costume with their window displays at the Oxfam boutique on St Mary's Street in Cardiff.

The Level 3 Fashion students were set a task to reinterpret Welsh national dress in January. They researched traditional Welsh costume, went on a fact finding visit to the St Fagans National History Museum and learned traditional techniques such as weaving and feltmaking.

A much wider range of colours

was used in the traditional costume than is today, so the students drew upon this for their inspiration. They used mixed check in their modern day designs, including a blue check that was used in the 18th Century.

The students used recycled clothes from Oxfam, which also tied in to the College's Freetrade and Sustainability Festival. The displays were up and ready in time for St David's Day.

CAVC programme area leader for creative design, Lisa Tasker, said: "The response from the public has really helped increase their

confidence and they have been proud to show friends and family. Oxfam have been so pleased with the response they are happy to make this an annual event for CAVC fashion students of the future!"

Oxfam boutique manager Becky Mann added: "I think the students' work has been fantastic. It's always nice to see what the students come up with using what is essentially our waste."

"I was really very pleased to see their work and I was impressed with all the effort that had gone into it."

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New Auris Icon 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 52.3 (5.4). CO2 Emissions 125g/km.

WELSH THEME IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY AT ALL SAINTS SCHOOL!



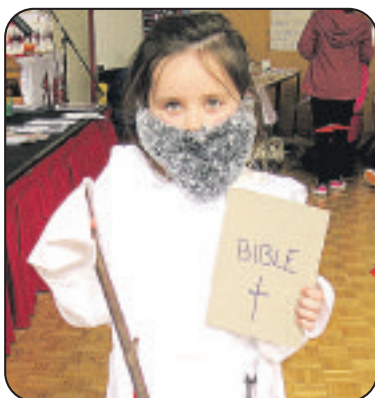
ST DAVID'S Day at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School, Barry, was a day of celebration and fun, when everyone dressed in Welsh-themed costumes and there were many colourful and imaginative entries.

The eisteddfod began with the churning of the Bard, when Max Blakeley, year-6, was chosen for his fantastic poem, 'The Enforcer,' which ended with a clever twist.

There was a demonstration of country dancing, class recitations and singing, followed by much excitement as the many competition results were announced.

Headteacher Richard Ware congratulated everyone on the high standard of entries, which made the judging very difficult.

He also thanked Welsh co-ordinator, Mrs Evans, and everyone who helped to make the day a superb celebration of Welsh culture and heritage. LM



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**Clive Road, Barry - £116,500**

Well presented three bedroom • mid terrace On Barry Island • View across the waterfront
Hallway, lounge through dining room, kitchen/breakfast room • Ground floor bathroom upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden
Close to shops, cafes, schools.

**Porthkerry Road, Barry - £135,000**

Three bedroom end terrace • West End of Barry • Porch, hallway, lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen • 1st floor bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear courtyard and forecourt • Close to local amenities • Walking distance of High Street shops • No chain.

**Lakin Drive, Barry - £143,500**

Two bedroom semi detached • Highlight Park • Entrance hall, lounge, modern fitted kitchen/diner • Conservatory • White bathroom suite • Driveway with parking for two vehicles • Single garage • Enclosed rear garden • Close to shops, doctors' surgery.

**Victoria Road, Barry - £149,950**

Three bedroom mid terrace • West End of Barry • Hallway, lounge, sitting room, dining room, kitchen • Bathroom to 1st floor • upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden and forecourt • Walking distance of shops, Romilly Park, Porthkerry Country Park • No chain.

**Min y Mor, Barry - £254,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • West End of Barry • Views across Barry and Bristol Channel Entrance porch, entrance hallway, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility area, downstairs w/c • Conservatory • Gas CH • Partial upvc DG • Enclosed rear garden • Double garage • Off road parking for 3 cars.

**St James Crescent, Barry - £325,000**

Executive Four bedroom detached • cul de sac location • West End of Barry • Hallway, lounge, dining room, study, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, downstairs w/c • Family bathroom • Ensuite bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Driveway and garage.

**Porth y Castell, Barry - £459,950**

Four bedroom (three double) detached • West End of Barry • Panoramic views • Hallway, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs shower room • Family bathroom with separate w/c • Mature garden with sun terrace and patio • Tandem driveway leading to integral garage • No chain.

**Cilgant y Mellion, Rhose Point - £224,950**

Four bedroom detached • Hallway, lounge, dining room, large conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, downstairs w/c • family bathroom and en suite to master bedroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway with parking for 2 vehicles • Single garage • No chain.

**Colcot Road, Barry - £129,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • Near West End of Barry • Hallway, lounge, kitchen/diner, shower room/utility room • Downstairs w/c • Gas CH • upvc DG • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway with parking for several cars • Single garage • Situated on bus route and close to schools, college, shops • No Chain.

**Rhodfa Sweldon, Barry - £139,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • Waterfront development • South facing garden • Hallway, downstairs w/c, lounge, kitchen/diner with integrated appliances • Modern white bathroom suite • Double glazing • Gas CH • Double driveway with parking for 2 cars.

**Lewis Street, Barry - £139,950**

Three bedrooms • West End of Barry • Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, kitchen, shower room and separate w/c • Electric storage heaters • Enclosed rear garden and forecourt • Close to local amenities and Porthkerry Country Park • For sale with no chain.

**Woodlands Road, Barry - £140,000**

Well maintained property with DG • Gas CH • Many original features to hall • Property has been trading on ground floor as hairdressers for 31 years • Not being sold as a going concern, but residential, with the opportunity, should one wish to continue with a commercial element • No chain.

**Plas Gwernyn, Barry****Offers in excess £140,000**

Two bedroom semi • Cul de sac location • Entrance hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room • Downstairs w/c, family bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden • Private road leading to driveway with off road parking for 2 vehicles.

**Blackberry Drive, Barry - £164,950**

Three bedroom detached • Near West End of Barry • Hallway, lounge/dining room, further reception room bedroom four (converted garage) • Kitchen/breakfast room, downstairs w/c. Family bathroom with jacuzzi bath • En suite shower room to master bedroom upvc DG • Gas CH • Off road parking.

**Port Road West, Barry - £179,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • North of Barry • Porch, hallway, lounge, through dining room, kitchen, lean to conservatory, family bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Gardens to front and rear • Driveway Walking distance to schools, doctors' surgery, supermarket, pharmacy & post office.

**Melville Close, Barry - £199,950**

Three bedroom semi detached set in cul de sac • Panoramic views • Porch, hallway, lounge, through dining room, study, modern fitted kitchen/breakfast room, utility room • White bathroom suite • upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway with off road parking for 2 cars • Viewing essential.

**Westward Rise, Barry - £199,950**

Three bedroom semi detached • West End of Barry • Entrance porch, hallway, lounge, through dining room, fitted kitchen • Conservatory • 1st floor bathroom • upvc double glazing • Gas CH • Gardens front and rear • Driveway • Close to paths leading to Porthkerry Park and beaches.

**Rose Cottage, Barry - £200,000**

Three bedroom cottage, east end of Barry • Porch, lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, utility room • Downstairs bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Enclosed gardens front and rear • Off road parking for 2/3 cars • Extensive works carried out during last four years • Viewing essential.

**Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry - £205,000**

Beautifully presented two bedroom detached bungalow • Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, bathroom and kitchen • DG • Gas CH • Enclosed rear garden • Driveway for 4 cars • garage/workshop • Easy access to Cardiff, M4 and Airport • Viewing essential.

**Hawthorn Road, Barry - £225,000**

Three bedroom detached • West End of Barry • Entrance hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, downstairs w/c, family bathroom to 1st floor • Gas CH • upvc DG • Driveway for 2/3 vehicles • Detached single garage • Enclosed gardens front and rear • Easy access to local amenities.

**Maes Glas, Barry - £259,950**

Four bedroom detached • West End of Barry • Entrance hallway, extended lounge with bay window, dining room, snug (garage conversion), kitchen, family room (extended), utility room, downstairs w/c, family bathroom and en suite shower room to master bedroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Gardens front & rear • Off road parking for 2 vehicles.

**Decca Springfield Cottage, Llanrhaeadr - £265,000**

Three double bedroom semi detached bungalow • Mature gardens • Porch, hallway, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, family room, conservatory • Bathroom to GF • Shower room to 1st floor • upvc DG • LPG CH • Driveway and garage.

**Y Cerrig, Barry - £284,995**

Three double bedroom GF apartment on the edge of The Knap with sea views • Gated community in block of four • Entrance hallway, open plan lounge/dining room/kitchen, ensuite shower and family bathroom • Security entry system • Gas CH/air con system • Bakery from lounge and dining room • 2 allocated parking spaces.

**Birch Grove, Barry - £325,000**

Three bedroom semi • cul de sac location • Knap area of Barry • Hallway, family room, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room/downstairs w/c, family bathroom and separate w/c on 1st floor • upvc DG • gas CH • Front, side and rear gardens • Driveway with off road parking for 2 vehicles • Detached single garage.

**Port Road East, Barry - £329,995**

Detached four bedroom 'true' bungalow • North of Barry • Plot approx quarter acre • Hallway, lounge, dining room, utility area, kitchen, bathroom • upvc DG • Gas CH • Driveway • Large garden with patio area • panoramic views across the Vale • Viewing essential to appreciate.

**High Street, Barry - £149,995**

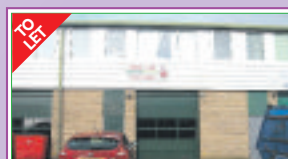
Opportunity to acquire a take-away with living accommodation above. Currently being used as a Chinese take-away. All fixtures and fittings to remain including large range, fridge/freezer, further freezers, gas stove and microwave. Accommodation over 2 floors with up to 5 bedrooms • Freehold.

**High Street, Barry - Offices**

Opportunity to lease a 1st & 2nd floor suite of offices in a prime location in sought after shopping area. 1st floor: 3 offices, two w/c's, kitchen. 2nd floor: further suite of 3 offices. Rates payable approx £2,957 (2012/13). Further information: 01446 709933

**Rear of Greenwood Street, Barry £7,000 per annum**

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**Palmerdale Business Centre, Barry £7,000 per annum**

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WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Patrick Collins – Forest Cafe, Porthkerry Park, Barry – Retractable weather protection awnings.
Mr John Reape – 72 Fitzhamon Avenue, Llantwit Major – New semi detached dwelling.
Mr Max John – 142 Fontygary Road, Rhose, Barry – The refurbishment and change of use of a semi detached barn to a 3 twin bedroom dwelling with ancillary facilities

and ample parking and circulation.
Lord Windsor, c/o Cooke & Arkwright – St Y Nyll Farm, St Brides Super Ely – To remove circa 5m of hedgerow and relocate a further circa 60m of hedgerow in order to create a field access onto Heol St Y Nyll with relevant visibility splays.
Mr Julian Carter – Butleigh, Pendoylan – Shorten lateral branches by 2 to 3m to Oak tree, shorten lateral branches

by 3 to 4m to Ash tree and remove lowest branch to Sycamore tree in rear garden.
ESA Tree Care Ltd – Three Tuns, St Nicholas – Fell Conifer tree.
Your Power No 1 Ltd. – Penllyn Estate Farm, Llwynhelig, Penllyn – Retrospective planning application for the retention of a solar photovoltaic array and associated equipment with a maximum capacity of 50KW (amended location to 2011/01190/FUL)

Mr Gerald Keen – Hendrewenall, Heol Y March, Bonvilston – Proposed American timber barn.
Mr Peter Holzinger – Awelon, Pen y Turnpike Road, Dinas Powys – First floor extension over existing flat roof garage to provide bedroom and rear private terrace.
Mr and Mrs Craig and Natalie O'Shea – Plot at junction of Gladstone Road, Ty Newydd Road and Woodlands Road, Barry – The proposal is for a single storey building of 570m2, providing hydrotherapy pool, multi-function room, treatment room, cafe, changing facilities and ancillary accommodation, with parking and associated landscaping.
Kristal Care Ltd – Island View

Residential Home, 10 Friars Road, Barry – New two storey care home extension to the rear of Plots 6 to 12, including a general refurbishment of the existing building. The new build extension will accommodate 30 new bedrooms, a kitchen, laundry, plant room and bathing facilities.
Mr Rhys Thomas – 5 Archer Road, Penarth – Removal of front wall to form access.

Network Rail – Aberthaw signal box – Demolition of signal box.
Vale of Glamorgan Council – Flying Start Family Centre, Gladstone Road, Barry – New single storey extension.
Mr N. Sylvester – 86 Redlands Road, Penarth – Renewal of permission 2008/00144/FUL loft conversion with 2 pitched roof dormers, extension to ground floor at 86 Redlands Road, Penarth.
Mr Martin Seamark – 5 Kingswood Close, Ewenny, Bridgend – Conservatory to rear and side porch extension.
Mr Christian Pederson, Topstak – Topstak Chimney Specialists Ltd., Unit 42-42a, Vale Business Park, Llandow, Cowbridge – Proposed new entrance junction. Existing junction to be changed to an

exit only junction.
Mr Martyn Evans – Parkside, Bonvilston, Cardiff – Alteration of an existing building's form. South facing dormers to be replaced by full length glass wall. Roof of existing utility room to be adapted to become a balcony.
Vale of Glamorgan Council – Flying Start Family Centre, Boiler House, Skomer Road, Barry – Extension to building for use as a new office space and stores.

Mrs Megan Elizabeth Wilson – 4 Britway Road, Dinas Powys – Remove Sycamore tree.
Mr Graham Ireland – 19 Duffryn Crescent, Peterston Super Ely – Single storey infill extension to the rear elevation.
Mr Steve Atkinson – 55 Heol Y Frenhines, Dinas Powys – Loft conversion with rear dormer.
John O'Toole – First floor flat, 10, Bradenham Place, Penarth – Change of use of first floor flat to Class A2 office use.
Sorrento and Mr Griffin – Sorrento, 67 High Street, Cowbridge – Proposed alterations to form an estate agents to part of the ground floor with remainder as shop sales area.
Mr Paul Harris – 27 Somerset View, Ogmore-by-Sea – Erection of a single

storey attached garage with patio area above.
Renee Pesticcio – Homeside House, Bradford Place, Penarth – Fell Ash tree at rear adjoining Kymen.
Mr Alistair Blacklaws – West Quay Medical Centre, Hood Road, Barry Docks, Barry – Proposed use of an ancillary retail pharmacy.
Vale of Glamorgan Council – Barry Call Centre, Greenwood Street, Barry – New

staircase enclosure and screening to roof ventilation plant (amendment to 2011/00704/RG3 and 2012/00499/RG3).
Mr Adrian Hill – Land to the east of Trerhyngyll – Stable and use of field for equestrian.
Mrs Susan Vickers – 15 Maes Slowes Lyes, Rhose – Garage conversion with no external changes.
Nightingales Pre-School Ltd. – 15 Albert Crescent, Penarth

– Extension to provide self contained Manager's accommodation with glazed link at first floor and staff office at lower ground floor.
Mr and Mrs AP Taylor – Crud y Gwynt, Love Lane, Llanblethian – Alterations/extension to existing dwelling.
Mr Mark Jones – Hawarden, 6 Church Place South, Penarth – A wooden green roofed garden shed.

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GUIDE: £250,000

3 New Barn Buildings, New Barn, Vale of Glamorgan



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GUIDE: £150,000 - £175,000

82, 82A & 82B Cowbridge Road East, Cardiff



Retail investment property in prominent position. Gross Rent £31,000 P.A.X.

GUIDE: £330,000

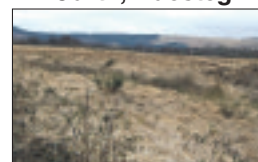
2 Drake Walk, Waterfront 2000, Cardiff



Modern office accommodation comprising 2,035 ft² over 3 floors. Includes 6 parking spaces.

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Various Parcels of Land, Garth, Maesteg



A total of 8 Lots comprising various sizes from 0.50 acres set on the edge of Garth, Maesteg

GUIDE: From £5,000

Unit 38 Nine Mile Point Industrial Estate, Newport



Modern end terraced unit of steel portal frame construction offering warehouse and offices.

GUIDE: £80,000 - £100,000

Land at Cefn Pennar, Mountain Ash



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GUIDE: £90,000



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Her funeral service will take place in All Saint's Church, Penyfael at 2.15pm on Wednesday 20th March 2013, followed by a short interment at Coity Crematorium.

EVANS Nancy

Peacefully at home in St Athan. Nancy, loving wife of the late Jim, dearly loved mother of Doreen and son-in-law John, loving grandmother and great grandmother.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fônmon. Funeral Thursday March 21, service 1.00pm at St Athan Church followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Ty Hafan c/o W James, 11 Fônmon Road, Rhosce, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

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Lions bring May Fair to Cowbridge

L LANTWIT MAJOR and Cowbridge Lions Club are starting off their fundraising for 2013 with a sale of second hand books in Llantwit Major on Saturday, March 23, starting at 9.30am and finishing at 4pm.

The planning for this is now well advanced with all of the stage acts booked and over 60 stalls will be on the Bear Field. So far 52 stalls have either been confirmed or have pledged to come along to this event and the Lions are confident that all the plots they have available will be taken.

A spokesman for the Lions said: "We have had a very good response from craft workers and various organisations for this event. There will be a good selection of stalls for people to find out about local organisations and to purchase goods from the many stalls selling crafts."

On Saturday, April 6, the Lions will be in Cowbridge running two events. There will be the annual diabetes screening session in the Lesser Hall and also they will be in Waitrose car park with a second hand book sale. More details of these events will follow nearer the date.

On April 12, they are holding an inter-schools quiz for teams from Llantwit Major, Cowbridge and surrounding areas. The quiz will be held in the town hall; Llantwit Major and all schools eligible have been contacted.

Bank Holiday Monday, May 6, will see the first Cowbridge May Fair to be run by the Lions.

"The stage has a variety of acts including local band The Lake Marines, St Donat's Choral and the Rock Choir. "On the field there will be a Maypole with demonstrations and a chance to have a go yourself, children's races, plus one or two for the mums and dads, a bonny baby event, and we still hope to hold a tug of war competition."

If you would like to find out more about Lions or any of the above events they can be contacted by email at info@lmandclions.org.uk or via their website at www.lmandclions.org.uk

DE

Under-10s' rugby festival

COWBRIDGE under-10s travelled to the Chippingham rugby festival to compete against a range of teams from across the south west of England.

Different rules saw the boys contesting line outs and scrums for the first time in their careers.

Cowbridge took first opponents Stow on the Wold by surprise with quick hands in attack and a solid defensive line, leading to a 2-1 win in their first game.

The second pool game against Corsham was destined to be a tough call but Cowbridge kept calm and didn't let Corsham dominate possession.

The creation of excellent turnover opportunities backed up by expansive attacking play enabled Cowbridge to secure a second win for the morning, 1-0.

The third game was against Stroud, who took a confident Cowbridge side by surprise in the first few minutes of the game. Cowbridge soon regathered their composure and a hard battle ensued.

However, Cowbridge couldn't pull back from

an early Stroud try and they lost 1-0.

The final pool game was against Bradford on Avon and Cowbridge had to fight hard to remain in the tournament's cup competition.

Cowbridge had stepped up their performance and made it look easy as they sucked the Bradford on Avon backs into a ruck situation before spreading the ball wide to a relatively easy 2-1 win and a place in the semi final against Bath.

A fast and open battle littered with crunching tackles and dubious refereeing decisions, resulted in a 1-0 defeat to the spa town locals and the end of a tough day for Cowbridge.

All boys performed admirably with particularly heroic performances from Iwan-Thomas Bartle, Tom Pugh, Rhys Williams, Jack Reilly and Joe Marshan.

A huge thank you from all parents to the coaching team for organising such a successful day of encouragement which expanded the players' development.

WL

Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL NATIONAL PARKS AND ACCESS TO THE COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1949

DECLARATION OF NATURE RESERVE IN THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COSMESTON COUNTRY PARK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in pursuance of Section 19 and 21 of the National Parks and Countryside Act 1949 that by a Declaration made on the 7 November 2012 110 hectares (271.82 acres) or thereabouts of land situated to the west of Lavernock Road, Penarth in the Vale of Glamorgan being part of Cosmeston Country Park (shown edged red on the plan attached to the said Declaration) is being managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

Certified copies of the said Declaration with plan attached may be inspected without charge at Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry between the hours of 8.30 am and 5.00 pm Mondays to Thursdays and 8.30 am to 4.30 pm on Friday.

Dated this day of March 2013

D Marles
Head of Legal Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Civic Offices
Holton Road
Barry CF63 4RU

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG DEDDF PARCIAU CENEDLAETHOL A MYNEDIAD I GEFN GWLAD 1949 CYHOEDDI GWARCHODFA NATUR YM MHARC GWLEDIG COSMESTON BRO MORGANNWG

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN, yn unol ag Adran 19 a 21 Deddf Parciau Cenedlaethol a Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad 1949, mai trwy Ddatganiad a wnaed ar 7 Tachwedd 2012, y bydd rhyw 110 hectar o dir (271.82 erw) i'r gorllewin o Lavernock Road, Penarth, Bro Morgannwg, sy'n rhan o Barc Gwledig Cosmeston (a nodwyd ag ymyl goch yn y cynllun a gysylltwyd wrth y Datganiad), bellach yn cael eu rheoli fel Gwarchodfa Natur Leol.

Cewch weld copïau ardestiedig o'r Datganiad hwn a'r cynllun yn rhad ac am ddim yn Swydddydd Dinesig Heol Holton, Y Barri, rhwng 8.30am a 5.00pm o ddydd Llun hyd ddydd Iau a rhwng 8.30am a 4.30pm ar ddydd Gwener.

Dyddiedig Mawrth 2013

D Marles
Pennaeth Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Swydddydd Dinesig
Heol Holton
Y Barri CF63 4RU

Swimmers show strength in long distance swim



LEFT and RIGHT: Some of the swimmers from Barry Amateur Swimming Club who took part in the Long Distance Postal Swim



RECENTLY the swimmers of Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the annual Long Distance Postal Swim, which is run by the British Long Distance Swimming Association.

Over half of the swimmers in the club took part in this event which is fantastic. This event takes place throughout the whole of the country for all swimmers of all ages and abilities during January and February.

The aim of the event is to see how far the swimmers can swim in an hour, and the swimming club uses this event as a marker every year to see how the swimmers are improving with their stamina and swimming abilities.

This year, as in the past, they have surpassed themselves, swimming fantastic distances for such young swimmers. The age for this event is taken from January 2013.

In the boys 8 and under age group Ben Ewington improved his previous distance by a massive 39 lengths to swim a total distance of 2825 metres of the Barry Leisure Center swimming pool, which is 113 lengths.

Not far behind was Monty Griffiths also aged 8, who swam 95

lengths which is a distance of 2375 metres, improving on his last years distance by 11 lengths.

Swimming in the 9 year age group, Thomas Pugh improved his distance by 350 metres swimming 111 lengths in the time which is 2775 metres. Ben Curran, aged 9, swam a total of 2075 metres which is 83 lengths and improved on last year by 7 lengths.

Swimming for the first time, Joseph Tailby, aged 9, swam a very good distance of 78 lengths which is 1950 metres. Also swimming for the first time, having not been long in the club, was 9 year old Ellis Young who swam 77 lengths which is 1925 metres.

Iestyn Perkins, swimming in the 10 year old age group, did an impressive swim by improving his distance by 17 lengths by swimming a total of 117 lengths which is 2925 metres. Cori Reed in the 10 year age groups swimming for the first time completed a very good distance of 103 lengths which is 2575 metres while 11 year old Declan Ewington swam a distance of 129 lengths which is 3225 metres of the pool.

James Hamer (12) swam an impressive distance of 3775 metres, which is 151 lengths of the pool. He improved on his last years distance

by 8 lengths which is 200 metres. Having not been able to swim this event last year 12 year old Shaun Bowden swam a very good distance of 3600 metres which is 144 lengths of the pool.

Samual Smith, aged 12, completed a very good distance of 3000 metres which is 120 lengths. Swimming the event for the first time Alec Czyzyski (aged 12) having not long joined the club, swam a very good distance of 2200 metres which is 88 lengths.

In the 13 year age group Jack Parry swam a fantastic distance of 3725 metres which is 149 lengths improving on last year by 19 lengths which is very good. Battling it out with Jack was 13 year old Ryan Connor, who managed to complete just one length less and swim a distance of 3725 metres.

Coach Craig Wheeler showed the swimmers what he could do by swimming the event for the first time and swam a very good 113 lengths which is a distance of 2825 metres.

In the girls 8 and under age group Gwenna Davies, swimming the event for the first time, had a very good swim and completed 91 lengths which is a distance of 2275 metres.

Swimming for the second year Kate Parry did a fantastic swim and completed 2250 metres which is 90 lengths of the pool, improving on her distance of last year by a massive 47 lengths which is 1200 metres. 8 year old Lilly Vann, who has not been with the club long, swimming for the first time in this event, completed a very good distance of 1950 metres which is 78 lengths.

In the 9 year age group which was the

largest this year, Ellie Ingram swam a fantastic distance of 2750 metres which is 110 lengths improving on last year by 325 metres.

All the other 9 year old girls were swimming for the first time while Georgia Carr swam a very good total of 103 lengths which is 2575 metres.

Having only just joined the club, Isobel Stevens completed 94 lengths which is 2350 metres.

Anna Mears swam a very good distance of 2000 metres which is 80 lengths of the pool. Emilia Knevet did a very good swim and swam 1950 metres which is 78 lengths and having not been in the club long, Niamh Hunter swam a total of 1875 metres which is 75 lengths. Not far behind was Katherine Beddoe who is also new to the club, and who swam a very good distance of 1650 metres which is 66 lengths.

In the 10 year old age group Caitlin Williams improved on her last years distance by an impressive 26 lengths to complete 108 lengths of the pool which is 2700 metres. New to the club and swimming the event for the first time was Pia Sully who swam 82 lengths which is 2050 metres.

Bethan Williams (12) swam a very good distance of 3700 metres which is 148 lengths of the pool and improved on her distance of last year by 250 metres; 13 year old Llinos Goodland have only just recovered from a skiing injury completed a distance of 134 lengths which was 3350 metres and still managed to improve on her last years swim by 150 metres.

Having yet again the top swim in the club and also for the past few

years, 15 year old Georgia Looker swam a fantastic distance of 4000 metres which is 160 lengths of the pool.

Not to be outdone by her sister, 15 year old Ffion Goodland swam a very good distance of 3625 metres which is 145 lengths.

Ffion improved her distance of last year by 75 metres while Menna Jones (15) had a very good swim and swam 115 lengths of the pool which is 2875 metres.

Competing in the event for the third year running was coach Claire Parry. In previous years she has competed she has come second in her age group so she is aiming for gold this year.

Claire swam a very impressive distance of 3700 metres, which is 148 lengths of the pool, and improved on last year's distance by 100 metres so she might be in with a chance of the gold; the club will not find out the result of this countrywide event until July.

A big thank you must go to all the helpers who helped to count during the event as without them this event would not be able to be run.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, please phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

We swim at Barry Leisure Centre on Monday, Friday and Sunday and Cardiff International Pool on Monday and Thursday. For more information please also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club's website. TW

NEWS FROM PENARTH RAMBLERS

River Taff walk is steeped in history

A GROUP of 11 walkers (with Jodie the dog) gathered at Llandaff village for an easy walk along both sides of the River Taff, and some interesting history.

Pam and Krys led the group past Llandaff Cathedral, built in 1107, and which after the Reformation fell into a state of ruin. In 1734, restoration began and has been ongoing ever since.

Making their way through the ancient churchyard to the River Taff and past Llandaff Weir they crossed to the eastern bank of the Taff, making their way past Gabalfa and Blackweir on part of the Taff Trail to reach Bute Park, where the busy life of the city seems a million miles away.

There aren't many capital cities which have a magnificent castle right in the centre and over 2,000 years of history lie behind the walls of this one, and the painter William Turner even visited on his tour of Wales in 1798.

After 1766, the castle was owned by the Bute family, who amassed their fortune from the second Marquess of Bute, who turned Cardiff docks into the greatest coal exporting port in the world, passing his fortune on to his son John who, by the 1860s, was reputed to be the richest man in the world.

Bute Park is one of the largest urban parks in Wales and is listed on CADW's register of landscapes. Between 1873 and 1903, Andrew Pettigrew a much-acclaimed gardener and horticulturist laid out the parkland as a private pleasure garden for the Bute family, and contained in the park is an arboretum. Gorsedd stones and the old Blackfriars site, where the second most important friary in Wales stood, now marked only by some stones.

The area was packed with runners taking part in the annual St David's Day charity race as the group made their way to the west lodge which, since 2012, has been converted into a vintage style tearoom and gift shop and is named the Pettigrew Tearoom.

Leaving the park through a handsome carved wooden door which stands near to the most photographed part of the castle - the Animal Wall designed by William Burges for the 3rd Marquess of Bute - they entered the hustle and noise of city life and crossed Cardiff Bridge.

Then, continuing on

the western bank of the Taff, they returned to Llandaff passing Sophia Gardens, the National Sports Centre, the cricket ground, Pontcanna Fields and the busy Western Avenue after a delightful five mile walk.

On March 16, a change to the programme, meet 9am at the Barry Waterfront for a 7.5-mile moderate walk in the Wenvoe and St Nicholas area; contact Barbara on 01446 794313.

The midweek walk on March 19 will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9.30am for an eight mile moderate walk from Bonvilston; contact Louise/Alison on 029 2070 6106.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice.

To follow the group please log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com. Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

'Let us pray for you' says local church

LAST month Vale Church completed a day of continuous 24-hour prayer.

This was a great achievement and a significant milestone in our short history.

Commencing at 8am, there was at least one person praying for the next 24-hour cycle.

The gospels record that Jesus had cause to pray all night and it is a pattern which we want to follow.

The next 24-hour prayer session is on Wednesday, March 20.

We want to bless the community as much as possible and welcome any requests for prayer.

You do not have to be a Christian or have any particular belief system. Whatever your concerns or worries, we will commit to pray for you for 24 hours.

Whether your problems are financial, ill health, relationships or addiction we would like to hear from you.

Provide as much or little detail as wished even if it's just initials or first name.

You can send a text to Neil on 07870 168154 or drop a note in at Vale Church, Unit 4, The Old Hall, Cowbridge. Look us up at www.valechurch.vpweb.co.uk.

Alun Griffiths

Busy spring for Lions

PORTHCAWL Lions are having a very busy time with four events due in the near future.

The first event is the first ever quiz night at the Hi-Tide on Friday, March 22 at 7.30pm. Entry is £3 and food and drinks are available during the evening.

The following day, Saturday, March 23 sees the next beach clean.

All volunteers please meet at The Rest at 10am. Stout shoes should be worn but all other equipment will be provided.

Porthcawl Lions' new famous book sales start again on Easter weekend.

On Saturday and

Sunday March 30-31, there will be the usual massive selection of fiction, non-fiction, paperback and hardback books on sale at The Seabank Hotel.

Doors are open between 10am and 4pm, and entry is free.

Enjoy a hot drink and home-made cake for only £1.50 at the club's coffee morning on Friday, April 5 between 10.30am and 12.30pm at Trinity Church, John Street.

A busy club like Porthcawl Lions always welcomes new members. Please call 01656 788583 if you are interested in learning more about the club.

JOHN COSSON

Churches Together in spring talk

CHURCHES Together in Cowbridge and District are holding our spring talk on Tuesday, March 19 in the United Free Church in Cowbridge, at 7.30pm for 8pm.

The speaker is Mike McNamee, Professor of Applied Ethics at Swansea University and the title of the talk is 'Suffering, Salvation and Sport: the doping controversy and why it matters'.

There is no charge, everyone is welcome to attend and donations will be gratefully received. RS

Big Screen welcomes Affleck's Argo

BIG SCREEN'S next film is Argo (Cert 15) on Thursday, March 21 at 7.30pm (doors open 7.10pm) in the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

In 1980, a joint CIA-Canadian operation mounted a daring raid to extract six fugitive American diplomatic personnel out of revolutionary Iran. Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck) devised a cunning plan involving a film crew to rescue the hostages. The film won this year's Oscar for Best Picture.

Tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office or on the door).

Gwyn drives off in style for farmer's golf society!



Another successful day on the golf course!

THE opening meeting of the season for members of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held recently at Southerndown Golf Club with incoming captain Gwyn Thomas launching the traditional opening shot to commence proceedings witnessed by the 41 members and guests assembled at the first tee.

Attaching a little back spin to his tee shot, and also having to contend with the sloping fairway, Gwyn's ball came to rest a little closer to its starting position than many had predicted.

It was somewhat ironic therefore that the member of society who correctly guessed the distance of Gwyn's opening tee shot was his father David, who willingly accepted the prize of a bottle of malt whisky.

Another welcoming sight for the members and guests was the

very spring-like weather that was something not enjoyed for quite some time and which hopefully would be a feature of the season ahead.

The day's event, kindly sponsored by Mr Glyn Watts-Jones, turned out to be a closely contested competition with the outcome finally decided on scores over the last six holes separating eventual winner Mark Rees from runner up Brian Jones, who both scored 34 stableford points.

Mark was particularly pleased to receive the Southerndown Cup from Mr Glyn Watts-Jones who had enjoyed a lifetime friendship with Mark's father Mr Islwyn Rees who passed away earlier last year.

Aubrey Bowen finished third with 33 points and in fourth place was Neil McLean with 32 points.

Wille Morgan's guest Bryan Edwards won the guest section with 34 points followed with Charles Vicary who scored 32 points. Ian Kelsall, playing the

course for the first time off a handicap of four, returned a very respectable 31 points to finish third while Keith Gibson hit one of his better shots during the last 12 months to win the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge-sponsored longest drive competition.

Mike King, Keith Wilding, Jim Hayes and Tosh Taylor won the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored prizes by being nearest the pin on the par three holes. Neil McLean correctly guessed 25 balls would fail to return home with the majority buried in the deep gorse that is a feature of this well maintained links course to collect the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky that resulted in £75 being raised for Ty Hafan charity.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28 at Bargoed Golf Club and will be sponsored by Hire One Ltd.

T.McC

League stars of the future!



COMpetition SUCCESS FOR TAOW

THE Tae Kwon Do Federation of Wales has hosted yet another successful competition.

On February 16, 94 competitors entered the competition held at Ogmores Comprehensive School sports hall; the day went very smoothly with students showing great skill and determination.

The whole event was enjoyed by students and spectators alike and

TAOW came away with a fantastic 18 gold, 19 silver, and 28 bronze medals, totalling an impressive 65 medal haul. Thank you to all participants and officials for making this event as successful as possible.

If you are interested in joining our very popular and friendly club please go to our website for more details, www.taowales.co.uk.

IP

Pairs winners

DAVE and Debbie Lea (pictured either side of Bridgend Bridge Club chairman Steve Burgoyne) were the winners of the 2013 club handicap pairs competition held over two weeks.



Paralympic swimmer Rhiannon Henry, coach Ragan Hagalstein and the Vale of Glamorgan's disability Sport Wales development officer joined talented local swimmers for the launch of the Vale Disability Swimming Academy.

New disability swimming academy is launched

A NEW disability swimming academy has been launched in the Vale to help nurture the next generation of Welsh Paralympians.

The new academy, based at Barry Leisure Centre, will give talented swimmers aged from 11 upwards access to top quality coaching and the chance to become classified to compete in regional and national competitions.

The academy has been set up in partnership by Swim Wales, the

Vale Council and Parkwood Community Leisure, and it is open to swimmers from the Vale as well as those from further afield.

As the academy is being run as a competitive club rather than a recreational one there are minimum requirements for potential participants. Swimmers need to have either achieved level five of the 'Learn to Swim' National Plan for Teaching, or be able to swim 50 metres in a recognised swimming stroke.

Rhiannon Henry, one of Wales' most successful Paralympic

swimmers, was the special guest to celebrate the new academy's launch. Rhiannon, from Bridgend, competed for Team GB in the last three Paralympics and won two bronze medals at the 2004 Games in Athens.

The Vale Disability Swimming Academy trains at Barry Leisure Centre every Wednesday between 6pm and 7.30pm, with additional training sessions planned.

If you are interested in joining the academy, please contact Simon Jones on 01446 704728.

UNDER-15S WIN TOURNAMENT



COWBRIDGE under-15s' coaches Dan Williams and Ed Lucas took the squad to St. Peter's RFC to compete in a 12-a-side tournament with some excellent teams attending the competition on a bitterly cold day in Cardiff.

In the group stage Cowbridge beat all of the sides faced - the host side of St. Peter's RFC, Penarth RFC, Caerleon RFC plus the impressive Abergavenny RFC, without conceding a point; the fast moving backline of Cowbridge being able to work well after the forwards had started slowly but increasingly dominated the ball at the breakdown.

The semi-final was played against Rhiwbina RFC, which Cowbridge won 17 - 7

and shipped the only try that they would concede in the entire tournament.

The final was a repeat match against Abergavenny with Cowbridge running out 15-0 victors to the delight of the coaches, team and parents.

Tom Lucas was deservedly awarded player of the tournament by the organisers.

Squad: George Thomas, Jac Davies, Jack Anderson, Fraser McGhan, Ed Couzens, Ellis Poulden, Luke John, Ben Jones, Joe Davies, Josh Brace, Hywel Williams, Tom Lucas, Ashford Thomas, James Bennett, Rian Thomas, Pete Anderson, Eugene Richards, Craig Boxall, Luke Bevan.

GD

Try a new sport - FOR FREE!

LOCAL sports clubs have joined forces with the Vale Council's sports and play development team to offer free taster sessions throughout March.

All ages can have a go at a range of sports including sea rowing, football, tennis, shooting, netball, dance, trampolining and badminton. The taster sessions are part of the Vale Council's 'Make it Happen 2013' campaign, which aims to build on the momentum of the London 2012 Games and inspire local people to get involved in sport this year.

Whether it be to have a go at something new, join a club, or get into sports coaching or volunteering, the campaign hopes to make the Vale more active during 2013

and help budding sportsmen and women achieve their potential.

Cllr Gwyn John, the Vale Council's Cabinet Member for Leisure, said: "A number of sports clubs are being really proactive by offering these free sessions and it is a great way to kick-off the 'Make it Happen 2013' campaign. There has been much talk about the 'legacy' of the London 2012 Games and these sessions are an example of the positive work being done by local sports clubs to capitalise on the success of last summer and encourage people to get involved in sport, whatever their age or ability."

For more information please call Julie Morgan on 01446 704748 or go online at www.vale-of-glamorgan.gov.uk/sportsandplay.

Llangan Primary School's indoor athletic win



The pupils of Llangan Primary School.

WE had arrived with the help of Elaine O'Connor, Kerrie Golton and Mr Edwards.

As we walked through the automatic doors into the leisure centre, a student from the Glamorgan University welcomed our team; his name was Cerrie. We were shown to our station.

We were summoned into the centre of the leisure centre, and the team's names were announced from each school.

Once registered, the organisers informed us that the girls' first events were the standing triple jump (hop, step and jump) or the standing long jump.

The boys went to the remaining activities: vertical jump, sitting shot-put and speed bounce (jumping either side of a barrier.) The boys did the standing triple jump, or the standing long jump, which left the girls with vertical jump, sitting shot-put and speed bounce.

The field events filled the morning session leaving the track events for the afternoon. This kicked off with the team obstacle race.

Representing the boys were Griff, Iwan-Thomas, Ethan and Wil.

They won their heat against Glamorgan University students, who had been persuaded to provide a team to balance numbers.

The girls' team made up of Charlotte, Justine, Jasmine and Harriet were pushed into second place by a very strong team from

St Helens.

With the obstacles still out the individual obstacle races followed, Iwan-Thomas and Griff and Justine and Bethan competing in the blue shirts of Llangan.

Griff got a first, second or a third in his heat and the same applied for the other competitors that were competing for Llangan.

The third event was for the children who were competing in the two lap race (sprint.) Llangan's boys, Iestyn and Jack, stepped up for the challenge and for the girls Lauren and Eve.

In this particular event we did outstandingly well with both the boys and Eve scoring a well deserved first and Lauren scoring a second.

Then it was another individual race with William, Rhys, Charlotte and Bethan competing in the long distance race involving four laps of the arena.

The first to run was Rhys and yet again this race went well with Wil and Rhys both achieving a first and Charlotte a second which pushed Bethan to a third.

The following event was the eight lap parlay (a relay which is shared between two people each doing four laps each, in any order).

We had saved our strongest runners for this race. Iestyn and Jack employed a first class tactic: they would take two laps each and rotate.

Their plan won the race. The girls followed this technique. Unfortunately they were beaten by

the girls from St David's Primary School.

The last event of the day was the four by two lap relay. Iestyn, Jack, Wil and Griff were running for the boys, and for the girls, Lauren, Eve, Charlotte and Justine.

It started off with Jack who gave them a comfortable lead. Wil managed to keep the Llansannor Primary School boys at bay to hand over to Griff who maintained the lead handing the baton over to Iestyn.

It was so tense. Who was going to win?

Iestyn hung on to the lead by the seat of his pants. We roared like lions. Llangan had won the race. The girls won their race in a similarly nail biting fashion.

After we had congratulated our team the organisers gathered together to announce the results.

First the girls; every time leading up to the top three we said: "At least we are not that position." When they announced St David's in second you could hear a deafening roar louder than a wolf's howl from Llangan - we had won the girls' leg of the competition!

Now for the boys' results. "Llansannor in second!" Which again meant Llangan were the champions.

We were over the moon - both the boys and the girls would be competing for the Vale Of Glamorgan against the rest of south east Wales in the next round.

By Rhys - Year 6

COWBRIDGE DARTS ROUND-UP

Annie and Steve are the mixed doubles champions

ON Tuesday, March 5, the mixed doubles competition was completed.

This year's champions are Annie Daily & Steve Simonite (Edmond's A) who defeated Pam Rosser & Clive Williams (Carne Arms) 3-0 in the final.

Also there was a rearranged league match, the top of the table clash between the Edmond's B and Llanharry. Despite Lee Davies (Llanharry) hitting a 180 in one of the games, the Edmond's B's 7-2 victory was just enough to take them back to the top of the table.

Present league standings: Edmond's B (76 points), Llanharry (75), Edmond's A (55), Hare and Hounds (52), Carne Arms (42), White Lion (41), Farmers Arms (39), Cross Inn & Old Post Ladies (33), Highwayman Inn (31).

On March 19 the semi-finals and final of the Clive Blick Trophy will be played at the Edmond's Arms.

In the first semi-final Amanda Hole, Joan Burt and Mark Duhig (Old Post Ladies) will play Mo Fleming, Rob Jones and Nigel Thomas (Farmers Arms). In the other semi-final Kay Bromham, Ian Bromham and John Bater (White Lion) will play Pam Rosser, Mark Dowling and Jason Cooke (Carne Arms). All matches start at 8.30pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information or any enquiries please e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@googlemail.com; up-to-date information on upcoming matches, league results and the league table can be found at www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PT

EVAN AND TIM SADDLE WINNERS AT FFOS LAS

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams and Aberthin's Tim Vaughan both saddled winners at Ffos Las last Monday.

Tim's five-year-old *Groomed* won the two-mile handicap chase getting home by a neck from *Star Galaxy*, trained by Kenfig Hill's John Flint, and top weighted *Di Kaprio* took the two-mile five furlong chase by nine lengths from *Trojan Sun*.

Groomed, a 4-1 chance, was ridden by Richard Johnson and *Di Kaprio*, well backed at 9-4, was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

NICK AT THE DOUBLE!

Ogmore's Nick Williams, younger brother of National Hunt jockey Christian Williams, notched-up a double at the Brecon & Talybont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases with two horses trained by former point-to-point rider Luke Price.

He took the men's open on the ten-year-old bay gelding *Khachaturian* and the restricted on *Coosan Lad*.

The former, which gave owner James Fuge a first winner, made most of the early running and although being overtaken by the grey *Silver Token*, owned and trained by David Brace, and ridden by Tom David, who had led a mile from home, ran on well in the closing stages to win by four lengths. *Khachaturian* was once owned by Mr Brace and was bought by

Luke at last year's Ascot Sales.

The only danger to *Coosan Lad* was *Rebel Alliance* who unfortunately ran out when sharing the lead four fences from home leaving Mike Bassett's seven-year-old to romp home a distance in front of *Cabinteele*.

Eighteen-year-old Rachel Leyshon from Bridgend, who rides out for Aberthin National Hunt trainer Tim Vaughan, standing in for regular pilot Emily Farr, came in for plenty of praise from former Welsh champion rider Shan Farr, of *Mandryka* fame, after scoring on her *Little Miss Monty* who, in a match for the ladies' open race, beat the 1-3 favourite *Public Esteem* partnered by Alex Dunn.

Mrs Farr said: "My daughter Emily is in New Zealand as part of her university course where she has been riding in races. She told me that I must get Rachel to ride the mare and I'm glad I did as Rachel rode a super race, I can't praise her enough."

There was little between the two horses with three fences to jump but *Little Miss Monty* gamely ran on to score readily by eight lengths.

Joe Knox, aged 23, son of the former National Hunt jockey Wayne Knox, who, when he gave up race riding made a name for himself as a harness racing driver, chalked-up his first winner on Lord Lipsey's *Ethiopia* in the members' race.

Joe's solitary rival *Cloak Of Silence* parted

company with his rider Alan Johns at the third fence leaving Joe, who hails from Abergavenny but who is now attached to Venitia Williams's Hereford yard, to romp home alone.

Katey Price, trainer of the winner, said: "My grandfather Dick Price won this race 30 years ago with *Andryama* and I am delighted to win it for the first time."

Alan Johns, who rides out for Llanccarfan's Evan Williams, had some consolation when taking the second division of the maiden on Brian Llewellyn's *Wiston Dreamer* who jumped the last ahead of *Mystical Rose* to win by two lengths.

David Brace's five-year-old *Lennie Da Lion* who, under Tom David, aged 22, took the first division winning by four lengths from *Drombeg West* in a time which was five seconds slower than *Wiston Dreamer* took in winning the second division.

Lennie Da Lion is trained by Amber Griffiths and is named after ex-boxer Lennie Williams whose son, Tyrone Williams, was a well known flat racing jockey.

Tom David said: "He jumped well, he's got a big engine and he nearly pulled my arms out."

In the confined race, Neil Edwards' seven-year-old mare *Catch The Rascal*, ridden by Chris Hammer, came home a dozen lengths ahead of the odds-on *Rockers Field* (Nick Williams). The only two other run-

ners, *Carrick Oscar* and *Nosler*, both failed to complete the course and the winner, trained by Dave Spear, could line up in the Dunraven Bowl Hunter Chase at Chepstow next month.

Cowbridge's James Tudor was in good form at Kingston Blount where he won with *Start Royal* (men's open) and *Harbour Court* (restricted).

The Curre & Llangibby meeting takes place at Howick, near Chepstow (first race 12.30) on Saturday and the Tivyside will be holding their meeting at Cilwendig near Boncath (first race 1pm) on Sunday.

The south Wales point-to-point annual dinner dance and presentation evening will be held at the Holiday Inn, Newport, Gwent on June 2. For tickets apply to Dai Jones 07736 553011 or Guy Lewis 07778 333779.

EVAN'S FONTWELL WINNER
Llanccarfan's Evan Williams scored with his seven-year-old *Lienosus* at Fontwell Park last Wednesday.

Confidently ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, *Lienosus* the 1-2 favourite, won the maiden hurdle by six lengths from *Tuscan Gold*.

You can e-mail your news/views to Brian Lee at brianlee4@virgin-media.com or phone him on 02920736438.

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Suzuki SX4 a quirky little number!

ROBUST and versatile...two words that spring to mind when I am confronted by the Suzuki SX4 DDiS, the 4x4 hatchback.

A switch allows the driver to select between two- and four-wheel drive, which is useful in this day and age of increasingly expensive fuel.

Vehicles are always more efficient when in two-wheel drive and this is great for typical day-to-day use. Four-wheel drive is ideal for challenging winter conditions or the occasional

MOTORING/TIM SAUNDERS

bit of off-roading. Being able to switch between the two while you're driving is really useful. Compare this to a Land Rover 90 where you have to be stationary to perform this move and I am already impressed.

Interestingly when my first daughter Harriett was born in February 2011, the petrol SX4 was the first vehicle she experienced when I drove her home from hospital.

When my second daughter Heidi was born a day before Harriett in the same month, she too was driven home from

hospital in an SX4 but this time a diesel version.

I like Suzuki vehicles in the same way that I appreciate Land Rovers. They both have an excellent no messing about reputation and can be relied upon in most circumstances.

The test takes place in high winds and when I manoeuvre into the outside lane of the motorway there is an unsettling banging from the roof, which does make me question what it is for a moment.

I am sure it is the flexible roof mounted radio aerial – and although this has not happened to me in any other vehicle – I plough on regardless – my second daughter needs to see her father and vice versa.

Arriving at the hospital my opinion of the aerial seems to be correct. I suggest this should be removed and



The Suzuki SX4.

the aerial fitted somewhere else on the vehicle.

Inside, the black plastic interior is no doubt hardwearing and although the seats are reasonably comfortable there is little inspiration as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz.

No matter how hard I try, I cannot find my favourite radio station but the steering wheel mounted cruise control is easy to use.

There is a raised driving position when compared to a standard

hatchback and this gives a more commanding view of the road.

I actually prefer this two-litre diesel engine to the 1.6-litre petrol I tested previously for two reasons. First, it is pretty gutsy and second it delivers much better fuel economy, although it is much more expensive to purchase than the petrol version. On the motorway it is noisy but consistently delivers over 50mpg.

Parkers, the car experts, say: "The Suzuki SX4 is a bit of an

oddy. It's a five-door hatchback, similar to the Suzuki Swift, but it comes with a chunky off-roader look and is available with four-wheel drive. The result is a slightly quirky cross between the two but it's also a success. It's practical and roomy inside, very comfortable on the move and handles well too with positive steering and an agile nature. At this price level, the Suzuki comes into conflict with too many far more talented crossovers and SUVs, such as the Nissan Qashqai and Skoda Yeti."

The boot is a good size and there is room inside for five adults, all of which makes for good family transport.

New price range: £12,595 - £17,699. Engine: 2-litre diesel; Power: 133bhp; 0-60mph: 11.2secs; Economy: over 50mpg. Watch the video at www.testdrives.biz

Steeplechase heads for Ystradowen

ON Saturday, March 23, at Ystradowen, the Glamorgan Hunt stage what are now the only steeplechases in the Vale as there will be no more racing at Redlands Farm, Bonvilston.

The traditional point to point is an event where families can enjoy an informal day at the races and get really close up to the thrills and spills of jump racing. There will be caterers, bars, side-shows, and trade stands, as well as bookmakers to have a

bet on your fancy. There is plenty of room for children to run around in the country air, and all aged under 16 get in free. Admission for car and driver is £10 with £5 for every other adult.

Follow the signs on the A4222 between Cowbridge and Pontyclun; first race 2pm.

For further information contact the secretary, Peter Thomas, on 01446 774310 (home) 07855366902 (mobile) or e-mail peter+liz@talktalk.net.

PT

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Competition success for TAOW

THE Tae Kwon Do Federation of Wales has hosted yet another successful competition.

On February 16, 94 competitors entered the competition held at Ogmere Comprehensive School sports hall; the day went very smoothly with students showing great skill and determination.

The whole event was enjoyed by students and spectators alike and

TAOW came away with a fantastic 18 gold, 19 silver, and 28 bronze medals, totalling an impressive 65 medal haul. Thank you to all participants and officials for making this event as successful as possible.

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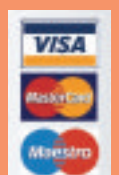
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- 60 VOLKSWAGEN Fox (55) 1.2 3-dr. In silver, 21,000 miles, low insurance £5,495
- 09 NISSAN Micra 1.4 Convertible. In silver, 1 local owner, with a/c, cd, alloys £4,995
- 58 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Style Climate 3-dr. In metallic red, 48,000 miles £4,995
- 08 PEUGEOT 308 1.4S 5-dr in silver, 66,000 miles, low insurance £4,995
- 08 CITROEN C3 1.4 'Cachet'. In silver, 15,000 miles, 1 owner £4,995
- 57 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4 Exclusive Convertible in black with black leather, 65,000 miles, 1 owner £4,995
- 56 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Convertible In silver, 44,000 miles, low running costs £4,495
- 54 LANDROVER Freelander 1.8SE 5-dr. In silver, 74,000 miles with a/c, leather etc £4,995
- 03 MINI Cooper 'S'. Electric blue/white roof, black 1/2 leather, 72,000 miles, looks superb £4,995
- 56 CITROEN C4 VTS Coupe. In met grey, 39,000 miles,

- high spec example at £4,795
- 57 SMART ForTwo Passion. In silver, 48,000 miles with leather, h/seats, a/c £4,495
- X MERCEDES 320 SLK Auto. Electric blue with full leather trim, 82,000 miles, convertible £4,495
- 57 RENAULT Megane 1.5DCi Dynamique. In met blue, 59,000 miles, 1 owner, full glass roof £4,295
- 55 SMART Fourtwo Passion Convertible. In orange/silver, 35,000 miles with a/c £3,995
- 55 FORD C-Max 2.0 Ghia Auto. In met grey, 71,000 miles, fantastic value at £3,995
- 55 VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 (75) S 3-dr. In black, 53,000 miles with a/c, c/d, etc £3,995
- 05 VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4. In silver blue, 52,000 miles, convertible at £3,995
- 53 MERCEDES 320 CLK Auto Avantgarde. In ice blue, full leather trim, stylish sports coupe at £3,995
- 03 MERCEDES C200 Komp Classic SE Auto in silver with grey leather, 79,000 miles £3,995
- 02 JEEP Grand Cherokee 4.0 Auto. In black with black leather, 83,000 miles. This 4x4 runs on petrol or LPG £3,995
- 55 PEUGEOT 307 S 5-Dr HDi (110). In black, 43,000 mile family diesel hatch at £3,695
- 07 VAUXHALL Vectra 1.8 Exclusive 5-dr in met blue. Ideal family hatch at £3,495
- 06 RENAULT Megane 1.6 Dynamique Convertible in silver. Fantastic value £3,495
- 56 FORD Ka Collection In Violet Metallic, 18,000 miles from new £2,995
- 05 PEUGEOT 206 SE 1.6 5-dr in electric blue, 51,000 miles, a/c, c/d, etc £2,995
- 54 RENAULT Clio 1.4 Expression Automatic 5-dr in dark met green, 44,000 miles £2,995
- 02 VW Beetle 2.0 Automatic. In lime, 88,000 miles with a/c, alloys etc £2,995
- 56 FORD Ka 1.3 Studio. In light met blue, 25,000 miles, low running costs £2,795
- 54 FORD Focus 1.4 LX 3-dr. In black, 58,000 miles, low insurance £2,695
- 06 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 Sport 5-Dr. In silver with full leather trim, 75,000 miles £2,495
- 54 HYUNDAI Coupe 2.0 SE. In silver/black leather, 90,000 miles, with Air con, alloys, etc. £2,195
- 55 HYUNDAI Accent 1.3 GSi 5-dr. In black, 75,000 miles £1,995
- 53 PEUGEOT 206 GTi in ice blue met, 70,000 miles with a/c, cruise control, cd £1,995
- 05 DAEWOO Lacetti 1.4 SE 5-Dr. In met blue, 77,000 miles, CD, e/windows, c/locking £1,995



60 VOLKSWAGEN Golf 2.0 Diesel FS Match
Met burgundy, 69,000 miles with sat nav
£11,495



02 JEEP Grand Cherokee 4.0 Auto
In black with black leather, 83,000 miles. This 4x4 runs on petrol or LPG.
£3,995



60 MERCEDES C250, CGI Sport Blue Efficiency Automatic
Black, fantastic spec, only 15,000 miles
£19,995



03 MINI Cooper 'S'
Electric blue/white roof, black half leather, 72,000 miles, looks superb.
£4,995



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